SN EXPERTS SCOUT THE NATION p.6

THE FAN'S NO. 1 CHOICE

Sporting News COLLEGE FOOTBALL

All-America wideout Chris Harper leads the Bears in Berkeley.

IT'S TIME!

THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF HAS ARRIVED

Stanford's Jordan Richards

262 DIVISION 1 PREVIEWS

82 DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Sporting News TOP 10

1. OKLAHOMA
2. OREGON
3. FLORIDA STATE
4. ALABAMA
5. AUBURN
6. STANFORD
7. BAYLOR
8. UCLA
9. OHIO STATE
10. SOUTH CAROLINA

OUR HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM

10 TRANSFERS TO WATCH

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REGION 16
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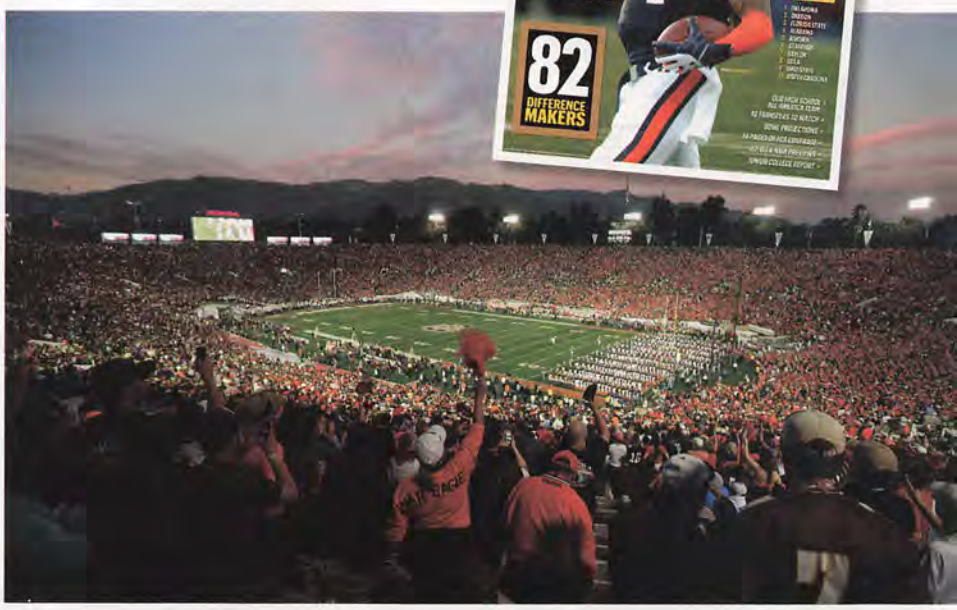
For the love of the game



A collective "whew!"

That's about all our staff has to say after putting together another edition of the *Sporting News College Football* yearbook.

After researching and compiling information on 262 NCAA Division 1 schools–that includes depth charts and projected starters for all the FBS members–we get a little stir crazy and punch-drunk at the office here at around 10 on a deadline-week night.

This magazine has a way of pushing our staff of six–three editorial folks (myself, assistant editor Will Long and editorial assistant Michael Gentry) and three graphics people (art director Scott Greig, production director Adam Richardson and creative director Valerie Helvey)–to the limit.

With the help of our legion of talented freelance beat writers across the country and the *Sporting News/Perform* college football team of experts Ken Bradley, Matt Hayes and Bill Bender, this book is like putting together one of those giant jigsaw puzzles you used to work on as a kid.

We begin early with the macro stuff–photo selection, cover possibilities, our Top 25–and then move on to the maddening micro chores like chasing down all those depth charts from every single school. And, you know, a lot of coaches today aren't exactly crazy about releasing depth charts, so many times it ends up being our best guess or a writer's best guess coming out of the spring game.

Long is our point man for depth charts, and he's a master at hounding sports information directors and football-office secretaries for them. He also compiled the best darn transfer list you'll ever see for college football on page 202. We've always done one for college basketball, but the high-profile transfer trend is so widespread now that we figured we'd debut one for this magazine since no other annual has one.

All the "Difference-Maker" mini-profiles you'll read in the FBS team previews–mini-profiles about a player for each program who is capable of turning a game around on one play–were written superbly by Mr. Gentry, who, like Long, is a man of many hats, sort of an all-purpose back for journalism, if you will.

Hayes, Bradley and Bender are the men behind the predictions and the prognostications. I'm not sure anyone outside of a coaching office knows more about college football than Matt, and I know no one else writes about it in such an entertaining and thought-provoking fashion. Bender, our numbers guy (Nate Silver has nothing on him), computes the bowl projections you find on page 204. He was born and raised in Ohio, loves Michigan and hates the Buckeyes. Yep, we're still trying to figure that one out. Bradley plays traffic cop with those guys as the college football editor for the *SN* website.

Another guy I want to mention is the MVP of our freelance team, JC Shurburtt, the national recruiting director for 247Sports who provides every Recruiting Report for the FBS schools and also compiles our High School All-America Team. We have partnered with 247Sports and Shurburtt for almost a decade now and, as a result, our recruiting/prospect coverage is the best you'll find for college football and basketball yearbooks.

Finally, Greig, Richardson and Helvey do the heavy lifting of making all of this converging information look good, clean and inviting to read on the printed page. That's no small chore when you've got 100-plus pages to crank out on a given day, coming from all directions. It's part art, part factory, this college football yearbook biz.

But, alas, for all of the folks mentioned above, it's *all* love.

Scott Smith **@scott_SNyrbks**

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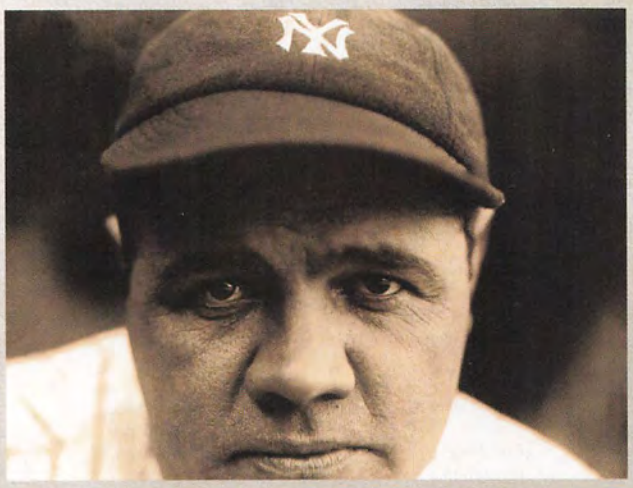
The Conlon Portfolios



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Team Index

SCHOOL NAME	PAGE
Abilene Christian	180
Air Force	113
Akron	98
Alabama	144
Alabama A&M	181
Alabama-Birmingham	89
Alabama State	181
Albany	171
Alcorn State	181
Appalachian State	160
Arizona	129
Arizona State	126
Arkansas	153
Arkansas State	157
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	181
Army	166
Auburn	146
Austin Peay	176
Ball State	101
Baylor	72
Bethune-Cookman	173
Boise State	110
Boston College	32
Bowling Green	96
Brigham Young	165
Brown	172
Bryant	175
Bucknell	177
Buffalo	97
Butler	178
Cal Poly	169
California	123
Campbell	178
Central Arkansas	180
Central Connecticut State	175
Central Florida	16
Central Michigan	102
Charleston Southern	170
Charlotte	166
Chattanooga	179
Cincinnati	18
Citadel	179
Clemson	28
Coastal Carolina	170
Colgate	177
Colorado	131
Colorado State	112
Columbia	172
Connecticut	22
Cornell	172
Dartmouth	172
Davidson	178
Dayton	178
Delaware	171
Delaware State	173
Drake	178
Duke	40
Duquesne	175
East Carolina	20
Eastern Illinois	176
Eastern Kentucky	176
Eastern Michigan	102
Eastern Washington	169
Elon	171
Florida	138
Florida A&M	173

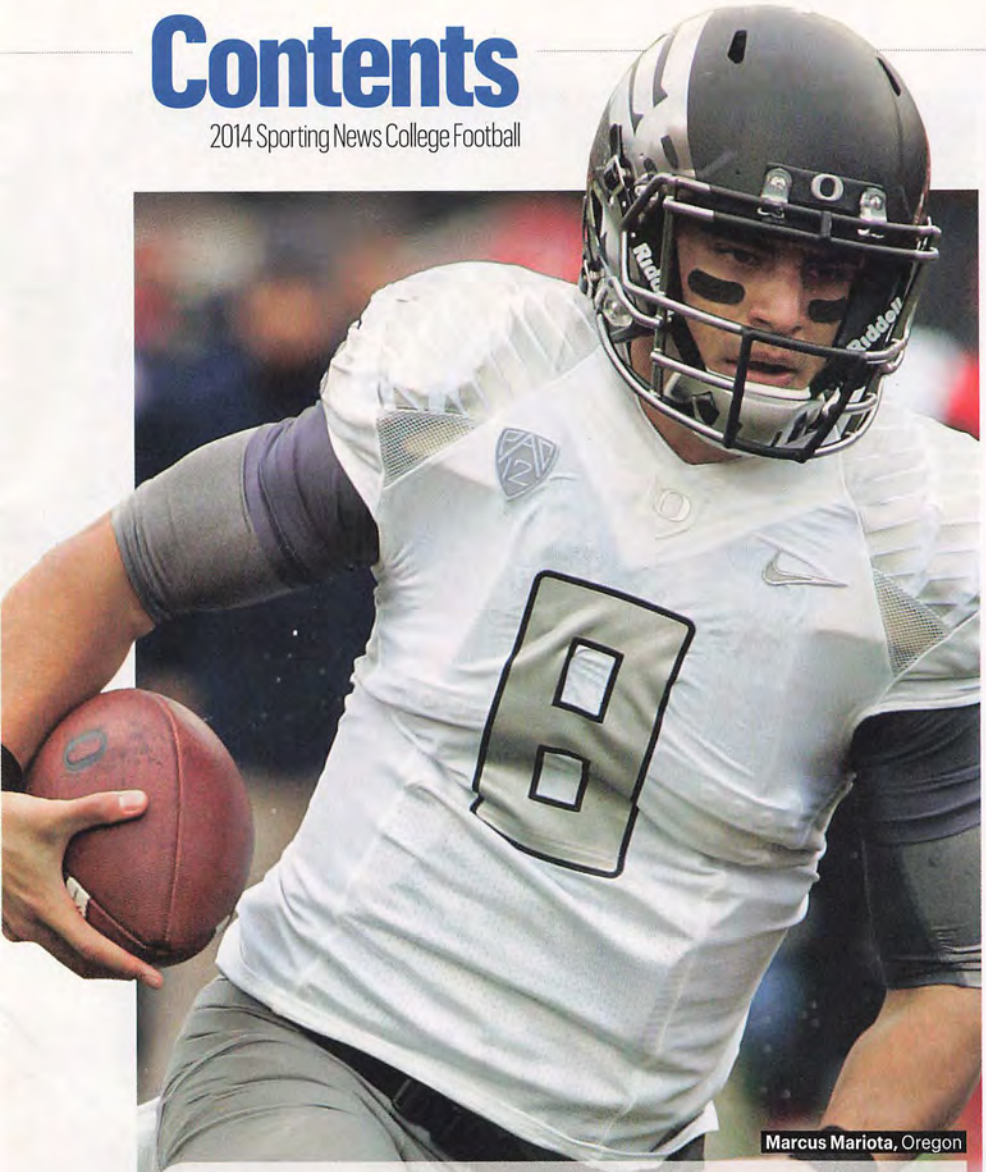
SCHOOL NAME	PAGE
Florida Atlantic	88
Florida International	89
Florida State	26
Fordham	177
Fresno State	107
Furman	179
Gardner-Webb	170
Georgetown	177
Georgia	136
Georgia Southern	160
Georgia State	161
Georgia Tech	43
Grambling State	181
Hampton	173
Harvard	172
Hawaii	109
Holy Cross	177
Houston	19
Houston Baptist	180
Howard	173
Idaho	161
Idaho State	169
Illinois	66
Illinois State	174
Incarnate Word	180
Indiana	55
Indiana State	174
Iowa	64
Iowa State	82
Jackson State	181
Jacksonville	178
Jacksonville State	176
James Madison	171
Kansas	83
Kansas State	78
Kent State	98
Kentucky	143
Lafayette	177
Lamar	180
Lehigh	177
Liberty	170
Louisiana	156
Louisiana-Monroe	158
Louisiana State	148
Louisiana Tech	92
Louisville	30
Maine	171
Marist	178
Marshall	86
Maryland	56
Massachusetts	99
McNeese State	180
Memphis	23
Mercer	179
Miami (Fla.)	38
Miami (Ohio)	99
Michigan	52
Michigan State	50
Middle Tennessee	88
Minnesota	62
Mississippi State	152
Mississippi Valley State	181
Missouri	140
Missouri State	174

SCHOOL NAME	PAGE
Monmouth	170
Montana	169
Montana State	169
Morehead State	178
Morgan State	173
Murray State	176
Navy	164
Nebraska	58
Nevada	106
New Hampshire	171
New Mexico	113
New Mexico State	161
Nicholls State	180
Norfolk State	173
North Carolina	36
North Carolina A&T	173
North Carolina Central	173
North Carolina State	34
North Dakota	169
North Dakota State	174
North Texas	92
Northern Arizona	169
Northern Colorado	169
Northern Illinois	100
Northern Iowa	174
Northwestern	65
Northwestern State	180
Notre Dame	162
Ohio	97
Ohio State	48
Oklahoma	70
Oklahoma State	76
Old Dominion	89
Ole Miss	151
Oregon	116
Oregon State	122
Penn State	54
Pennsylvania	172
Pittsburgh	44
Portland State	169
Prairie View A&M	181
Presbyterian	170
Princeton	172
Purdue	67
Rhode Island	171
Rice	90
Richmond	171
Robert Morris	175
Rutgers	57
Sacramento State	169
Sacred Heart	175
Saint Francis	175
Sam Houston State	180
Samford	179
San Diego	178
San Diego State	108
San Jose State	109
Savannah State	173
SMU	20
South Alabama	158
South Carolina	134
South Carolina State	173
South Dakota	174
South Dakota State	174
South Florida	22
Southeast Missouri State	176

SCHOOL NAME	PAGE
Southeastern Louisiana	180
Southern	181
Southern California	128
Southern Illinois	174
Southern Miss	93
Southern Utah	169
Stanford	118
Stephen F. Austin	180
Stetson	178
Stony Brook	171
Syracuse	33
TCU	79
Temple	23
Tennessee	141
Tennessee-Martin	176
Tennessee State	176
Tennessee Tech	176
Texas	74
Texas A&M	150
Texas-San Antonio	91
Texas Southern	181
Texas State	159
Texas Tech	81
Toledo	101
Towson	171
Troy	159
Tulane	21
Tulsa	21
UC Davis	169
UCLA	124
UNLV	108
Utah	130
Utah State	111
UTEP	93
Valparaiso	178
Vanderbilt	142
Villanova	171
Virginia	45
Virginia Tech	42
VMI	179
Wagner	175
Wake Forest	35
Washington	120
Washington State	121
Weber State	169
West Virginia	80
Western Carolina	179
Western Illinois	174
Western Kentucky	87
Western Michigan	102
William & Mary	171
Wisconsin	60
Wofford	179
Wyoming	112
Yale	172
Youngstown State	174

Contents

2014 Sporting News College Football



Marcus Mariota, Oregon

6 SCOUTING THE NATION

The long-awaited College Football Playoff has arrived.

By Matt Hayes & Ken Bradley
Sporting News college football writers

8 TOP 25
10 HEISMAN COUNTDOWN
10 ALL-AMERICA TEAM
12 TRANSFERS TO WATCH
13 NEW BOWLS

168 FCS PREVIEW

By Will Long, *SN Yearbooks* Assistant Editor

North Dakota State looks to make it a record four straight titles, but Eastern Washington tops our Top 25, led by All-America wideout Cooper Kupp.

186 JUNIOR COLLEGE REPORT

By Tony Jimenez, *JC Reports*

- TOP 25 TEAMS
- SUPER SOPHOMORES
- TOP JUCOS MOVING ON

189 CLASS OF 2015 ALL-AMERICANS

By JC Shurburtt, 247Sports

An undersized QB from Texas tops our listing of America's best prep seniors—and Florida sets the pace with nine selections.

193 **2013 FINAL STATS**
196 **TARGETS**
198 **FCS SCHEDULES**
202 **NEW DESTINATIONS**
204 **BOWL PROJECTIONS**

NCAA DIVISION 1 PREVIEWS

FBS

AMERICAN ATHLETIC	14
ACC	24
BIG TEN	46
BIG 12	68
C-USA	84
MID-AMERICAN	94
MOUNTAIN WEST	104
PAC-12	114
SEC	132
SUN BELT	154
INDEPENDENTS	162

FCS

OVERVIEW	168
BIG SKY	169
BIG SOUTH	170
COLONIAL	171
IVY	172
MEAC	173
MISSOURI VALLEY	174
NEC	175
OHIO VALLEY	176
PATRIOT	177
PIONEER	178
SOUTHERN	179
SOUTHLAND	180
SWAC	181

SMALL COLLEGE PREVIEWS

NCAA DIVISION 2	182
NCAA DIVISION 3	184
NAIA	188

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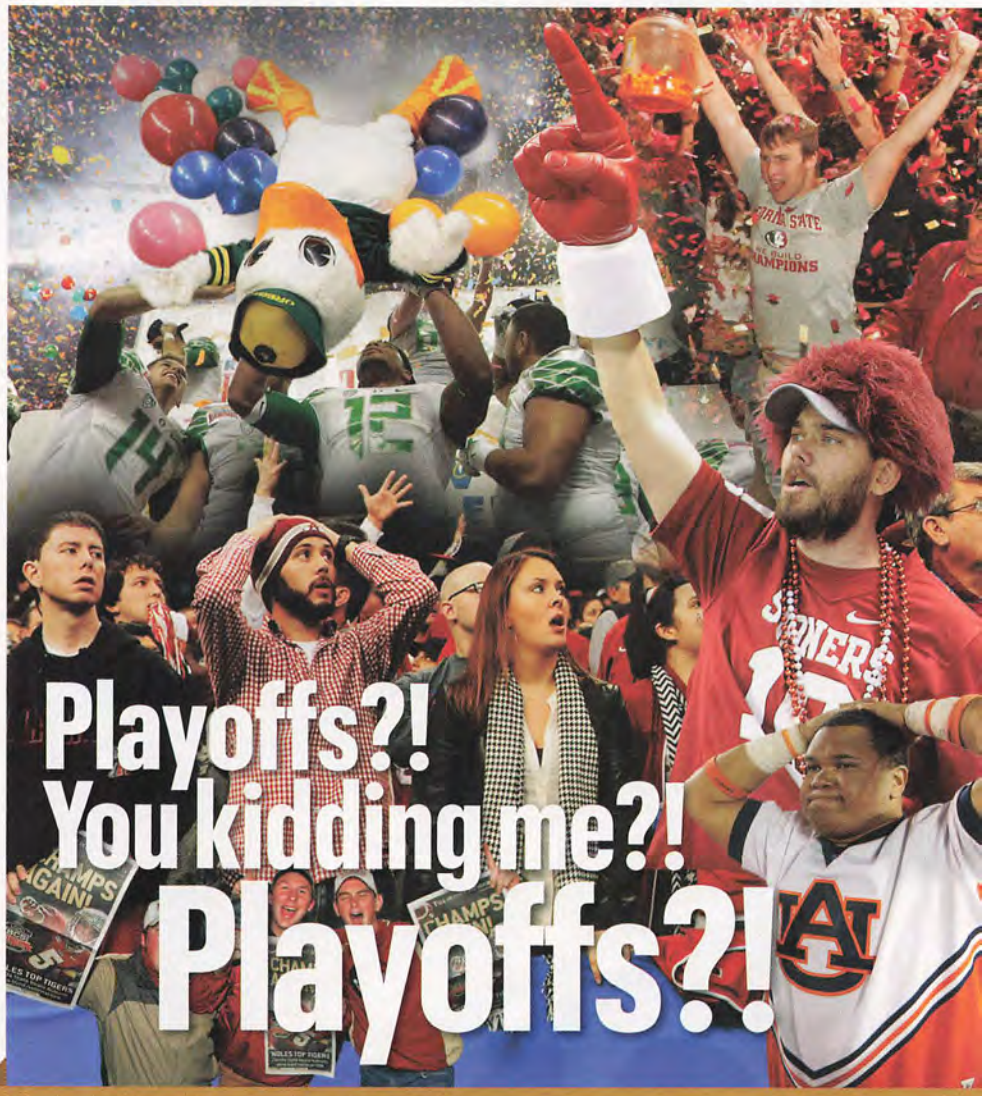
SportingNews TOP 25

1 OKLAHOMA
2 OREGON
3 FLORIDA STATE
4 ALABAMA
5 AUBURN
6 STANFORD
7 BAYLOR
8 UCLA
9 OHIO STATE
10 SOUTH CAROLINA
11 LSU
12 MICHIGAN STATE
13 ARIZONA STATE
14 NOTRE DAME
15 GEORGIA
16 USC
17 NEBRASKA
18 TEXAS A&M
19 WISCONSIN
20 OLE MISS
21 WASHINGTON
22 FLORIDA
23 TEXAS
24 NORTH CAROLINA
25 UCF



Playoffs?! You kidding me?! Playoffs?!

The long-awaited FBS playoffs have finally arrived—and college football may have opened up a Pandora's box of new controversies that could have fans regretting what they asked for.

BY MATT HAYES | *Sporting News* college football writer

Welcome back, everyone. You may notice some changes around here, a hurried (harried?) postseason transition pushed through a sport that for nearly a century thrived on time-honored tradition.

The future, in the form of the College Football Playoff (CFP), is here. What that means–other than a four-team "playoff"–is anybody's guess.

"We're like everyone else," says USC coach Steve Sarkisian. "There's a lot of the unknown out there, so I guess we'll see what happens."

How's that for progress?

Take a wildly successful product, drastically change it and see what happens. Understand this: If you think the controversy of years past (you say controversy; the framers of the system say "bugs") are history, you've obviously been chewing too much grass from Tiger Stadium.

Settle in and digest the five biggest changes to the new postseason:

FOUR TEAMS INSTEAD OF TWO. For 16 years under the BCS system, the postseason was centered on a complex formula of three polls–none of which had any accountability–deciding the two teams playing in the BCS National Championship Game. Now there will be an equally complex selection committee of 13 deciding what four teams will constitute a "playoff" to determine the national champion.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ERIC GAY / AP (2); PHIL SEARS / AP; RUSTY COSTANZA / AP; DAVID J. PHILLIP / AP; PHIL SEARS / AP; CHERYL GERBER / AP

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BYE-BYE POLLS. There will still be polls, but they'll just be for "funsies." The coaches will still release a weekly poll, but it will have no bearing on the CFP. The *Associated Press* poll, long ago deemed irrelevant when it and the BCS parted ways, will still be around, too–and will still have zero impact on the championship chase. The only poll that matters is the one delivered by the 13-member selection committee.

THE USE OF METRICS. In the BCS, we were told–wait, sold–a system that included computer polls using specific "metrics" to determine rankings. If you need the specific definition of metrics explained to you, you're not alone. And you won't be happy about the CFP's publicly stated "metrics" used by the selection committee: overall record, record vs. ranked teams, ranked wins on the road, strength of schedule, etc.,–and, of course, the eye test. Basically, the same thing more than 120 human voters used for the last 16 years in the BCS. Only subtract about 100 or so voters and you get a committee. There, does that make you all warm and fuzzy about the "playoff" yet?

A RETURN TO CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR. Other than the actual four-team tournament, this is clearly the most beneficial byproduct of the change. There will be a total of six games on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, including the two national semifinals (Rose Bowl and Sugar Bowl) and four other bowls with either contractually obligated teams, or teams matched by the selection committee. The National Championship Game will be played a week later at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

MORE TEAMS IN CONTENTION, MORE WHINING. If you thought the No. 3 team in the BCS rankings got shafted all those years, wait until the Nos. 5 and 6 teams start complaining about getting left out. Wait until a team that wins a "Power 5" conference (SEC, Pac-12, Big 12, Big Ten, ACC) gets left out. Wait until the SEC lands two of the four spots in the semifinals, and we're left with a potential SEC vs. SEC national title game. Of course, that's the very thing that brought about the CFP in the first place.

And on that final, fitting note, we wish you good tailgating. The new, crazy ride is just beginning.

OKLAHOMA PLAYERS. ALONZO ADAMS / AP

SportingNews PRESEASON TOP 25

Boomer Sooner: Look who's back at the top of college football

BY MATT HAYES | *Sporting News* college football writer

1 **OKLAHOMA:** You can't use the "Alabama wasn't motivated" excuse anymore. And while we're talking about the Sooners' whipping of the most talented team in college football in last year's Sugar Bowl, let's give some credit to the OU offensive coaches. In 15 bowl practices, they figured out how to make Trevor Knight comfortable at the most important position on the field. Add to that the Stoops brothers finally figuring out what it takes to stop the pass-happy offenses in the Big 12, and you've got a nice recipe for a return to the top of college football.

2 **OREGON:** It's always something that blocks an Oregon championship: an injury (Dennis Dixon), a missed tackle (Auburn), an upset (Stanford) and another injury (Marcus Mariota). At some point the Ducks have to be on the other side of it. As long as Mariota stays healthy, no one will stop the offense. The Ducks will outscore everyone if they have to–or at least until the defense gets used to new personnel and coordinator Don Pellum.

3 **FLORIDA STATE:** It's easy to pencil the 'Noles into the top spot because there's Jameis Winston and enough offensive firepower to light a Third World country. And then there's a rebuilt defense, a tougher schedule and the reality that there's this massive target on the back of defending national champions. They're getting everyone's best shot–and that combination will be a problem at some point in the season.

4 **ALABAMA:** For all the hype of quarterback Jacob Coker transferring to Tuscaloosa from FSU, we still don't know what the Tide has–other than a ton of inexperience at the most important position on the field. They've dealt with this before, three years ago, but those questions produced a unique player (AJ McCarron) and one of the best runs in school history. This team is loaded everywhere else, and should have enough to win the SEC and earn a spot in the College Football Playoff (CFP).

5 **AUBURN:** Everyone has a flaw; Auburn's is the same as last season: defense. But coach Gus Malzahn and his offense are so good, it won't matter. The loss of tailback Tre Mason is big, but Malzahn says there's talent at the spot. Two names to remember: Roc Thomas, a five-star signee, and redshirt freshman Peyton Barber. They're two young guys who have yet to carry the ball in a college game.

6 **STANFORD:** You have to admire what David Shaw has produced on The Farm. In an era of "spread it out with tempo and speed," Shaw hasn't veered from caveman ball. Ground-and-pound on offense, play strong defense and wear out the other guy. Stanford makes a move into the top four (and the CFP) if QB Kevin Hogan becomes more than a safe option in the passing game.

7 **BAYLOR:** The transformation from afterthought to college football elite has been remarkable. Baylor is the prime example of what the right coach can do–especially when that coach, Art Briles, has a quarterback-friendly system in an offense-first conference. Think Bryce Petty had a big season in 2013 (46 total TDs, 3 INTs)? Wait and see what Petty does in Year Two in Briles and offensive coordinator Philip Montgomery's system.

8 **UCLA:** It's Year Three now under Jim Mora Jr., and he has an elite quarterback (Brett Hundley) and has completely transformed the Bruins into a physically and mentally tough

team. They better be, because the schedule is brutal early with tough road games (Texas, Arizona State) and brutal late with key home games (Arizona, USC, Stanford).

9 OHIO STATE: Urban Meyer says he's more involved in the defense; says new defensive coordinator Chris Ash has made a difference in the way the Buckeyes get after the quarterback and cover in the secondary (two problems in 2013). OK, we'll bite. It's hard to argue with Meyer's track record. Imagine what happens if the Buckeyes do get significantly better on defense—and still have QB Braxton Miller leading a dangerous offense.

10 SOUTH CAROLINA: Who in their right mind would think South Carolina, a habitually underachieving program before Steve Spurrier's arrival, would get bored with 11-win seasons? The Gamecocks could easily make it four in a row this fall, especially if QB Dylan Thompson becomes the one thing Spurrier hasn't had in his time in Columbia: a true thrower of a quarterback.

11 LSU: Best possible scenario last season: LSU, already out of the SEC West Division race at the end of the regular season, gets some critical playing time for QB Anthony Jennings. The best thing for a young quarterback is a strong defense, and the Tigers will be significantly better defensively (and last year they were solid). And don't forget freshman tailback Leonard Fournette, maybe the best at his position in high school since Adrian Peterson.

12 MICHIGAN STATE: We're at the point now in East Lansing where Spartans coach Mark Dantonio has this thing so figured out, and rolling so fluidly, that even a revamped defense won't slow success. The defense, by the way, also has the best pure rush end in college football in Shilique Calhoun. The sooner QB Connor Cook develops into an elite thrower, the more dangerous the Spartans become.

13 ARIZONA STATE: The most intriguing team of our Top 25. The Sun Devils could go one of two ways: back up last year's 10-win season with a prolific offense (led by star QB Taylor Kelly), or continue the ugly end to last season—when it became clear in losses to Stanford and Texas Tech that the defense still has some significant questions. And that defense returns only three starters.

14 NOTRE DAME: The key question: Was last year's regression due to quarterback play (Tommy Rees didn't play that poorly), or a drop in talent? The return of QB Everett Golson is big both on the field and with leadership—something last year's team was lacking. If anything, Notre Dame has more overall talent now than it did when playing in the 2012 BCS National Championship Game.

15 GEORGIA: For the first time in three years, Georgia enters a season with some legitimate questions at quarterback. Senior Hutson Mason was serviceable in the three games he played for injured Aaron Murray last year. Of course, serviceable isn't going to win the SEC East. The Dawgs are strong on both sides of the ball, but never underestimate the value of an experienced quarterback who protects the ball.

16 USC: There are still lean (scholarship numbers) years ahead, but this team continues to have some of the best skill players in the nation. Wide receiver Nelson Agholor is scary-good, and the Trojans will run on anyone in the Pac-12 with tailbacks Javorius Allen and Tre Madden. The defense is another issue; talent is there, depth is not.

17 NEBRASKA: There's no bigger question floating around Lincoln than who plays quarterback (Tommy Armstrong Jr. or Johnny Stanton), especially with star tailback Ameer Abdullah forgoing the NFL for his senior season. Then there's the underlying issue: What can this program do to keep from losing another four games (six straight seasons under coach Bo Pelini) in 2014?

18 TEXAS A&M: Kevin Sumlin got a fat raise in the offseason ($5 million per) for third- and fourth-place finishes in the SEC West. Here is where we'll see if Sumlin (and his system) made the player (Johnny Manziel), or if the player elevated a program. Considering Sumlin's track record with quarterbacks dating all the way back to Sam Bradford at Oklahoma, the safe bet is Kenny Hill or Kyle Allen will put up big numbers.

19 WISCONSIN: Only one team in college football has fewer returning starters (Utah State), but that lack of experience (especially on defense) won't prevent the Badgers from pushing Nebraska for the Big Ten West title. Don't expect many surprises: Running backs Melvin Gordon and Corey Clement (and perhaps true freshman Taiwan Deal) will pound away, while QB Joel Stave throws over the top.

20 OLE MISS: A young team getting better, a young team gaining confidence. And a dangerous team in the SEC West Division race—especially if juco QB recruit Jeremy Liggins (all 296 pounds of him) becomes a dangerous changeup for starter Bo Wallace. Young players have to make significant improvement on defense, including rising star Robert Nkemdiche at end.

21 WASHINGTON: For years we've wondered how Chris Petersen would handle life away from his bubble in Boise. Now he has stepped up a level in competition, and walked into a strong setup from the previous staff. Sophomore quarterback Cyler Miles has the potential to be elite, but the defense needs work. Another issue: The schedule rotation brings UCLA and Arizona State, the Pac-12 South's best teams.

22 FLORIDA: The Gators are ranked because there's too much talent on the roster and the bad breaks from 2013 can't possibly happen again. Everyone is healthy, everyone is excited with a new tempo offense and the only thing left is for QB Jeff Driskel to reach expectations. If he plays as well as coach Will Muschamp thinks he can, Florida has enough talent to win the SEC East.

Mack Brown

23 TEXAS: We're banking on new coach Charlie Strong to change the way the Longhorns do business—or at least keep this team in the Top 25 where Mack Brown left it. They'll be tougher and they'll be more on edge, but they'll still need consistency from the quarterback spot, the very thing that led to the end of the Brown era. Who knows how long senior David Ash (multiple concussions in 2013) can go, and who knows how good talented 6-4 sophomore project Tyrone Swoopes can be?

24 NORTH CAROLINA: Larry Fedora is quickly building a solid (and dangerous) program in Chapel Hill. Quarterback Marquise Williams has the potential to be a 3,000/1,000 player (yards passing/rushing), and the offense gets another boost with talented freshman tailback Elijah Hood (a January enrollee) giving the unit a breakaway threat. Fifteen starters return from a team that, with a couple of breaks, could have won 10 games last year.

25 UCF: Lost in the celebration of the Fiesta Bowl win: The UCF defense controlled Baylor's point-a-minute offense when it mattered most (forget about garbage points). Nine starters return from that group, and they're as physical as any team in the state of Florida—including defending national champion FSU. The unit is so strong that it could allow the Knights to use 6-4 true freshman Tyler Harris, a January enrollee who received an offer from Alabama, to start at QB from Day One.

BROWN: L.G. PATTERSON/AP

Jameis Winston

HEISMAN COUNTDOWN

Here's a 1-10 look at how *Sporting News* sees the Heisman race stacking up entering the 2014 season:

1 JAMEIS WINSTON, QB, FLORIDA STATE

Johnny Manziel entered the 2013 season as the favorite to win the Heisman and become just the second player to win it twice. But as good as Manziel was, he couldn't overcome four losses in the regular season. Winston will step into 2014 as the favorite to win the award for a second time. The Seminoles should begin the season at or near the top of the polls. Can Winston overcome the pitfalls of every player to try for two Heismans since Archie Griffin did it in 1974-75?

2 MARCUS MARIOTA, QB OREGON

Mariota was being mentioned as a possible No. 1 overall pick in the NFL Draft. The dual-threat leader of one of the nation's most dynamic offenses announced that he would return for his junior season. He'll be in the mix (again) for the Heisman and his return immediately makes the Ducks a threat to win a national title. Mariota threw 30 TD passes and had just four picks. He also ran for 582 yards and nine scores. But a leg injury slowed him down the stretch but, when healthy, Mariota is an absolute nightmare for defenses.

3 BRAXTON MILLER, QB OHIO STATE

Miller would have been in New York this year if a minor knee injury hadn't sidetracked his season early. He missed a little time and fell behind in the Heisman race. Still, he ran for 1,033 yards and 10 TDs and completed 63.2 percent of his passes for 1,860 yards, 22 scores and five interceptions. If he continues to improve his passing–because he'll always find ways to gain yards on the ground–Miller could be the first Buckeye to win the Heisman since Troy Smith did it in 2006.

Sporting News 2014 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Marcus Mariota	Oregon, Jr.
RB	Todd Gurley	Georgia, Jr.
RB	T.J. Yeldon	Alabama, Jr.
WR	Nelson Agholor	USC, Jr.
WR	Tyler Lockett	Kansas State, Sr.
WR/TE	Devin Funchess	Michigan, Jr.
OL	Cameron Erving	Florida State, Sr.
OL	Andrus Peat	Stanford, Jr.
OL	Reese Dismukes	Auburn, Sr.
OL	Tre Jackson	Florida State, Sr.
OL	Hroniss Grasu	Oregon, Sr.
K	Roberto Aguayo	Florida State, So.
KR	Ty Montgomery	Stanford, Sr.

DEFENSE

DE	Randy Gregory	Nebraska, Jr.
DE	Vic Beasley	Clemson, Sr.
DT	Leonard Williams	USC, Jr.
DT	Danny Shelton	Washington, Sr.
LB	Ramik Wilson	Georgia, Sr.
LB	Myles Jack	UCLA, So.
LB	Trey DePriest	Alabama, Sr.
CB	Vernon Hargreaves III	Florida, So.
CB	Ifo Ekpre-Olomu	Oregon, Sr.
S	Landon Collins	Alabama, Jr.
S	Kurt Drummond	Michigan State, Sr.
P	Austin Rehkow	Idaho, So.
PR	Ryan Switzer	North Carolina, So.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Jameis Winston	Florida State, So.
RB	Melvin Gordon	Wisconsin, Jr.
RB	Ameer Abdullah	Nebraska, Sr.
WR	Antwan Goodley	Baylor, Sr.
WR	Jamison Crowder	Duke, Sr.
TE	Nick O'Leary	Florida State, Sr.
OL	Rob Havenstein	Wisconsin, Sr.
OL	Brandon Scherff	Iowa, Sr.
OL	Le'Raven Clark	Texas Tech, Jr.
OL	Laremy Tunsil	Ole Miss, So.
OL	Cedric Ogbuhei	Texas A&M, Sr.
K	Mike Hunnicutt	Oklahoma, Sr.
KR	Kermit Whitfield	Florida State, So.

WINSTON: CHUCK BURTON / AP

Todd Gurley

4 TODD GURLEY, RB
GEORGIA

Considered the nation's best back early in the season, Gurley is big, fast and strong and can do just about anything in the backfield for the Bulldogs. His campaign to win the Heisman was derailed by a string of injuries that nicked him up just enough to keep him away from action and out of the Heisman race. But make no mistake–Gurley is a beast with incredible speed and strength. With QB Aaron Murray gone, look for coach Mark Richt to rely on Gurley more, and more carries mean bigger stats–if he can remain healthy from all the pounding he takes.

5 NICK MARSHALL, QB
AUBURN

Auburn didn't know what Marshall was going to be when last season began–a passer, a runner? As it turned out, the Tigers found out they had a playmaker at the most important position on the field. The junior-college transfer proved he could run the read-option as well as anyone in the country, gaining 1,023 yards rushing and 11 TDs. He also showed that when called upon to throw, he could do that, too. He completed 60.4 percent of his passes for 1,759 yards, 12 TDs and five interceptions. He only threw one pick in his last eight games–although he wasn't asked to put the ball in the air much. With an experienced offensive line, a talented backfield and playmaking receivers–plus a successful season of experience running Gus Malzahn's offense–Marshall should be considered a front-runner from Day One this year.

6 BRYCE PETTY, QB
BAYLOR

Petty is in a great spot to put up big numbers. The Bears have one of the nation's top offenses and he ran it close to perfection in 2013. He tossed 30 TD passes and just two interceptions while averaging 320 yards passing per game. Those numbers could have been much higher, but he saw limited time in the second half of games the first half of the season because of blowout wins. He loses burner Tevin Reese from the receiving corps but will have his top target back in Antwan Goodley, who had 1,319 receiving yards last season. Expect BU coach Art Briles to have more receivers ready this year for the opportunity to haul in Petty passes.

7 T.J. YELDON, RB
ALABAMA

Only at Alabama can a back rush for 1,163 yards and 13 scores and not live up to expectations. But Yeldon sat out a late-season game against Georgia State and saw limited carries in earlier games against Colorado State and Georgia State. In big games, Yeldon was at his best. He ran for 133 yards and two touchdowns against LSU, 149 yards and a TD against Texas A&M and 141 yards and a score against Auburn. With AJ McCarron gone and Nick Saban breaking in a new quarterback, look for the Crimson Tide to lean on their most experienced runner and make a run at Alabama's second Heisman Trophy.

8 BRETT HUNDLEY, QB
UCLA

Hundley is big, strong and fast and can make plays with his arm and legs. He completed 67.8 percent of his pass attempts for 2,845 yards, 22 scores and nine picks last season. He also led the team in rushing with 587 yards and nine touchdowns. To be more effective in 2014, Hundley needs a running back to step up and take some of the burden off of him. At times, Hundley tried to do too much and was forced into miscues. In 2012, when Johnathan Franklin was the Bruins' lead back and rushed for 1,700 yards, Hundley threw for 3,740 yards and picked up yards with his feet when he needed to, not because he had to.

9 MELVIN GORDON, RB
WISCONSIN

Gordon quietly had a huge 2013 while picking up a bunch of yards with few opportunities because he shared carries with the now-graduated James White. Gordon ran for 1,466 yards and averaged 8.1 yards per tote. He topped the 100-yard mark seven times and scored 12 TDs. In 2014, expect to see his touches increase. If he comes close to keeping the same pace as 2013, it could be a record-setting season for him. On the downside, he only caught one pass, but White was a focal point of the passing game. If Gordon gets involved in that aspect and can produce, it will only elevate his Heisman stature.

10 AMEER ABDULLAH, RB
NEBRASKA

In 2011, Abdullah burst onto the scene as a dynamic freshman kick returner. In 2012, he topped 1,000 yards rushing and took it to another level in 2013 with 1,690 rushing yards (6.0 per carry) and nine scores. He topped 100 yards in 11 games. He can catch it out of the backfield, too, making him twice the threat. When the All-Big 12 back announced he was returning for his senior season, it was music to the Cornhuskers' ears.

–Ken Bradley

THIRD TEAM

DEFENSE
- **DE Shilique Calhoun,** Michigan State, Jr.
- **DE Dante Fowler,** Florida, Jr.
- **DT Michael Bennett,** Ohio State, Sr.
- **DT Brandon Ivory,** Alabama, Sr.
- **LB Denzel Perryman,** Miami, Sr.
- **LB Bryce Hager,** Baylor, Sr.
- **LB Eric Striker,** Oklahoma, Jr.
- **CB Kendall Fuller,** Virginia Tech, So.
- **CB Quandre Diggs,** Texas, Sr.
- **S Cody Prewitt,** Ole Miss, Sr.
- **S Derron Smith,** Fresno State, Sr.
- **P Justin Manton,** Louisiana-Monroe, Sr.
- **PR V'Angelo Bentley,** Illinois, Jr.

OFFENSE
- **QB Bryce Petty,** Baylor, Sr.
- **RB Jeremy Langford,** Michigan State, Sr.
- **RB Mike Davis,** South Carolina, Jr.
- **WR Stefon Diggs,** Maryland, Jr.
- **WR Amari Cooper,** Alabama, Jr.
- **TE Evan Engram,** Ole Miss, So.
- **OL Eric Lefeld,** Cincinnati, Sr.
- **OL Shaquille Mason,** Georgia Tech, Sr.
- **OL John Theus,** Georgia, Jr.
- **OL Spencer Drango,** Baylor, Jr.
- **OL Jack Allen,** Michigan State, Jr.
- **K Jeremiah Detmer,** Toledo, Sr.
- **KR Devon Edwards,** Duke, So.

DEFENSE
- **DE Charles Tapper,** Oklahoma, Jr.
- **DE Cedric Reed,** Texas, Sr.
- **DT Carl Davis,** Iowa, Sr.
- **DT Montravius Adams,** Auburn, Jr.
- **LB Ben Heeney,** Kansas, Sr.
- **LB A.J. Johnson,** Tennessee, Sr.
- **LB Hayes Pullard,** USC, Sr.
- **CB Ronald Darby,** Florida State, Jr.
- **CB Charles Gaines,** Louisville, Sr.
- **S Sam Carter,** TCU, Sr.
- **S Anthony Harris,** Virginia, Sr.
- **P Spencer Roth,** Baylor, Sr.
- **PR Kevonte Martin-Manley,** Iowa, Sr.

GURLEY: JOHN RAOUX/AP

SATURDAY SUPERLATIVES

Sporting News college football writer Matt Hayes' preseason list of who's got what at each position on the field–and the sidelines:

QUARTERBACKS
Arm: Sean Mannion, Oregon State
Running: Taysom Hill, BYU
Accuracy: Jameis Winston, Florida State
Two-minute drill: Bryce Petty, Baylor
Instincts: Marcus Mariota, Oregon

RUNNING BACKS
Pile-mover: Todd Gurley, Georgia
Breakaway threat: Ameer Abdullah, Nebraska
Pure speed: Melvin Gordon, Wisconsin
Short yardage: Jeremy Langford, Michigan State

WIDE RECEIVERS
Hands: Rashad Greene, Florida State
Deep threat: Jamison Crowder, Duke
Across the middle: Nelson Agholor, USC

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN
Pass protector: Andrus Peat, Stanford
Road-grader: Reese Dismukes, Auburn

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN
Run-stuffer: Danny Shelton, Washington
Pass rusher: Randy Gregory, Nebraska
Combo vs. run/pass: Leonard Williams, USC

LINEBACKERS
Against the run: Tyler Matakevich, Temple
Blitzer: Eric Striker, Oklahoma
In coverage: Chi Chi Ariguzo, Northwestern
Combo run/coverage: Trey DePriest, Alabama

CORNERBACKS
Man cover: Vernon Hargreaves III, Florida
Run support: Quandre Diggs, Texas

SAFETIES
Cover: Anthony Harris, Virginia
Run support: Landon Collins, Alabama

COACHES
Guts to gamble: Bob Stoops, Oklahoma
Ingenuity: Chris Petersen, Washington
Play-caller: Bobby Petrino, Louisville
Unpredictability: Les Miles, LSU

GAME-DAY FANS
Student section: Wisconsin
Atmosphere: Tiger Stadium, LSU

–Matt Hayes

Nick Harwell

TRANSFERS TO WATCH

It didn't work out the first time, so maybe it does the second chance around. Here's a look at the top FBS transfers who are now eligible for the 2014 season:

Connor Brewer, QB, Arizona (from Texas): Brewer, who is from Arizona, was the quarterback Texas zeroed in on early and was signed instead of some guy named Jameis Winston–who had a pretty good opening season at FSU. When it didn't work out in Austin, Brewer returned to Arizona and now is competing with five quarterbacks–*yep, five*–for the starting spot. He clearly has the most talent, but must learn the nuances of Rich Rodriguez's spread-option offense.

Michael Brewer, QB, Virginia Tech (from Texas Tech): One thing, more than any other, contributed to Virginia Tech's regression the last two years: inconsistent quarterback play. Brewer isn't Michael Vick, but he's also not Logan Thomas–who threw 29 interceptions over the last two seasons. A graduate transfer, Brewer failed to win the starting job last season at Tech, but in limited time the last two seasons completed 41 of 58 passes for five touchdowns and no interceptions. How much better would VT have been the last two years with zero interceptions?

Jacoby Brissett, QB, N.C. State (from Florida): It's easy to say Brissett made a mistake by leaving Florida, but the reality is he was told the Gators had a starter and he would be the backup. He has a team now, and the Wolfpack desperately need his help. Last season, new coach Dave Doeren walked into an N.C. State program with experience and a favorable schedule–and couldn't win a single ACC game. Poor quarterback play didn't help. Brissett will be critical in Year Two for Doeren.

Jacob Coker, QB, Alabama (from Florida State): There will be no more scrutinized (graduate) transfer than Coker, whom FSU coach Jimbo Fisher claimed did enough to win the job in Tallahassee but still lost out to Winston. No one walks into a better situation. Coker has the most talented team in the nation around him, and one of the best offensive minds (and play-callers) in the game (Lane Kiffin) coaching him. If all goes well (and if Fisher was right about his assessment), Coker could have a huge season in Tuscaloosa.

Jacob Coker

HARWELL: ORLIN WAGNER / AP; COKER: PHIL SEARS / AP

Andrew Hendrix

Nick Harwell, WR, Kansas (from Miami of Ohio): Charlie Weis was desperate for a go-to receiver; Harwell was desperate for a home after getting kicked off the team and out of school at Miami. He's a legit threat downfield, and caught 229 passes (24 TDs) for the RedHawks. Do you think Kansas QB Jake Heaps needs a steady option? The Jayhawks' leading wide receiver last year caught all of 11 passes.

Braylon Heard, RB, Kentucky (from Nebraska): This under-the-radar transfer is a terrific tailback who was waiting his turn behind Rex Burkhead and Ameer Abdullah in Lincoln until he could wait no more. Heard is a dynamic, pile-moving back who fits perfectly with what UK coach Mark Stoops is trying to establish in Lexington: tough, physical players who seek contact instead of avoiding it.

Andrew Hendrix, QB, Miami of Ohio (from Notre Dame): If Hendrix wasn't beating out Tommy Rees last season, he certainly wasn't beating out Everett Golson this year. So why not transfer to a team that didn't win a game in 2013 and can use just about any live, experienced arm to help the RedHawks win a few games?

Wes Lunt, QB, Illinois (from Oklahoma State): It wasn't so long ago that Lunt won the job at Oklahoma State in spring practice before his freshman season. Midway through the 2012 campaign, he was banged up and lost the job and then fell all the way to third on the depth chart. Wait and see how this uber-talented thrower flourishes in offensive coordinator Bill Cubit's offense.

Cody Riggs, CB, Notre Dame (from Florida): Riggs wasn't going to win a starting cornerback job at Florida (he might have won a safety spot), so he left to get one more year playing his desired position to show the NFL what he can do. Just because he couldn't win a spot at Florida (the Gators are loaded at corner) doesn't mean he won't play well in South Bend. He's an aggressive risk-taker at a position that demands it.

Rushel Shell, RB, West Virginia (from Pittsburgh): After playing so well as a freshman backup in 2012, he left Pitt after he and coach Paul Chryst couldn't get along. A big back with speed and vision, he'll be the second straight transfer tailback to start at WVU. That includes Charles Sims, who ran for more than 1,000 yards last year after transferring from Houston.

–Matt Hayes

HENDRIX: DAVID ZALUBOWSKI / AP; BACARDI BOWL: COURTESY AUBURN ATHLETIC ARCHIVES

HAVANA *daydreamin'*

In another place in time—long before Castro and the 'communist menace'—college football brought Cuba and the United States together at a place called the Bacardi Bowl. Postseason NCAA football returns to the Caribbean this year after a 77-year absence.

As college football's postseason continues to grow at an ever-expansive rate—four bowl games will be added this year to bring the grand total to 39—no location can be considered too obscure to host the next contest. Remote sites like Shreveport, Boise and Mobile already play host to the 70 teams that participated in the 2013 bowl campaign. The newly-sanctioned Bahamas Bowl will make the postseason a truly foreign affair again after the ill-fated International Bowl in Toronto ended a four-year run in 2010.

It's not the first time college football has taken a holiday Caribbean cruise for an exotic gridiron affair.

Where was that, you ask?

How about Havana—as in Cuba.

Don't laugh. We're not "Havana daydreaming" here, as Jimmy Buffett sings. It has been done six times before.

Long before the Roses, Oranges and Fiestas ruled the college football landscape, fans were treated to the Salads, Gothams and Bacardis of their day. Affectionately known as both the "Rhumba Bowl" and the "Cigar Bowl," the Bacardi Bowl was played a half-dozen times between 1907 and 1937 at the La Tropical Stadium in Havana.

The first five games involved programs from the Deep South—including Louisiana State, Tulane, Mississippi State, Florida and Ole Miss—against Cuban universities or athletic clubs. The sixth and final game saw Auburn take on Villanova.

The inaugural Bacardi Bowl, played on Christmas Day 1907, pitted LSU against Havana University. Though the future communist footballers had faired well against a team comprised of American servicemen earlier that year, they were severely overmatched by the boys from Baton Rouge. How bad was it? Let's just say the Cubans were about as successful that day as the Kennedy Administration was during the Bay of Pigs.

Final score: 56-0 LSU.

After a series of lopsided games, the Bacardi Bowl was reorganized and played again in 1937 after a 16-year hiatus. But, in keeping with the revolutionary attitude of the island, the game was almost thwarted by an unhappy dictator. Fulgencio Batista, who would eventually be overthrown by Fidel Castro, threatened to cancel the contest after his picture was omitted from the program. Only after some impromptu photocopy work was the game allowed to continue.

Moved to New Year's Day, the 1937 game, a 7-7 tie between Auburn and Villanova, was the first time two American universities played football on foreign soil. Auburn, which traveled more than 11,000 miles round-trip to play in its first-ever bowl, finished the season No. 13 in the nation with a 7-2-2 record. Though the Bacardi Bowl was a relative success (more than 10,000 attended the 1907 game), it never made it past 1937.

1937 Bacardi Bowl

Other new bowls in 2014 will include the Camellia Bowl in Montgomery, Ala., the Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl and the Miami Bowl at Marlins Park. Obviously, none of those sites will be able to compete with the scenery in Nassau, where they hope to expand 15,000-seat Thomas Robinson Stadium to 30,000 before hosting the game. The venue has hosted plenty of football games—World Cup qualifiers, in fact—but not of the American variety.

William Stanback

PROJECTED FINISH

1. **UCF** — Bowl Projection: Orange Bowl
2. **CINCINNATI** — Bowl Projection: Military Bowl
3. **HOUSTON** — Bowl Projection: St. Petersburg Bowl
4. **EAST CAROLINA** — Bowl Projection: Birmingham Bowl
5. **SMU** — Bowl Projection: Miami Beach Bowl
6. **TULANE** — Bowl Projection: Armed Forces Bowl
7. **TULSA** — Bowl Projection: Bahamas Bowl
8. **UCONN**
9. **USF**
10. **MEMPHIS**
11. **TEMPLE**

UCF looks to be the decided favorite in juggled AAC lineup

BY ERIC BAILEY | *Tulsa World*

The American Athletic Conference left its mark on the college football world in its inaugural season.

As the BCS era ended, league champion UCF captured a Fiesta Bowl victory over Baylor. It was a nice coup for a conference anxious to thrust its identity to the public.

The 2014 season will have a different look. Three newcomers (East Carolina, Tulane, Tulsa) will enter while two others (Louisville, Rutgers) will depart. And the makeover will not be complete until next year when Navy enters as a football-only member.

The introduction of the former Conference USA schools won't be a radical change for many of the American's charter members. Central Florida, Houston, Memphis and SMU were recently members of C-USA with the aforementioned trio entering this fall.

With the BCS meeting its demise, the American will have to work to be granted an opportunity to play in the newly formed College Football Playoff. The American and four other conferences are competing for one coveted spot awarded to the top overall team to play in either the playoff or one of four major bowls not hosting a semifinal or championship game.

After finishing 12-1 last season, which included an 8-0 mark in league play, UCF coach George O'Leary was asked about any possible future opportunity to gain access into the College Football Playoff.

"We have 12 one-game seasons and each game is its own season," O'Leary says of his team. "I've always kept it simple. We win and we can get a conference championship and whatever that conference championship gets us is gravy. Obviously, the playoff is the ultimate goal, but I don't care about that now. Winning the conference will get us where we need to be."

The Knights won't have an easy path to a repeat championship. Cincinnati will try to complement its strong defense with new quarterback Gunner Kiel. Houston is playing its best defense in years and East Carolina won't be a fun trip for any league team.

TRENDING

Three stories to watch

1 Reunited: The American welcomes East Carolina, Tulane and Tulsa. Two years ago, that trio, along with four charter members of the American (UCF, Houston, Memphis, SMU), was in Conference USA.

RECRUITING RANKINGS

by JC Shurburtt, 247Sports

247 COMPOSITE

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL PLAYERS	★★★★★ 5-STAR RECRUITS	★★★★ 4-STAR RECRUITS	★★★ 3-STAR RECRUITS	POINTS
1	South Florida	28	0	0	27	190.54
2	UCF	17	0	1	14	165.79
3	Cincinnati	26	0	0	17	156.78
4	Temple	30	0	0	18	152.18
5	Houston	26	0	0	19	143.91
6	East Carolina	28	0	0	12	142.56
7	SMU	25	0	0	11	134.00
8	Memphis	24	0	0	11	130.82
9	Tulsa	23	0	0	8	127.18
10	Tulane	20	0	0	9	120.75
11	Connecticut	17	0	0	6	102.39

ALL-AMERICAN ATHLETIC

Offense

- **QB** **Shane Carden,** Sr., East Carolina
- **RB** **Brandon Hayes,** Sr., Memphis
- **RB** **William Stanback,** So., UCF
- **OL** **Eric Lefeld,** Sr., Cincinnati
- **OL** **Garrett Stafford,** Jr., Tulsa
- **OL** **Kyle Friend,** Jr., Temple
- **OL** **Torrian Wilson,** Sr., UCF
- **OL** **Parker Ehinger,** Jr., Cincinnati
- **TE** **Mike McFarland,** Sr., South Florida
- **WR** **Deontay Greenberry,** Sr., Houston
- **WR** **Justin Hardy,** Sr., East Carolina

Defense

- **DL** **Silverberry Mouhon,** Jr., Cincinnati
- **DL** **Thomas Niles,** Jr., UCF
- **DL** **Demetris Anderson** Jr., UCF
- **DL** **Martin Ifedi,** Sr., Memphis
- **LB** **Tyler Matakevich,** Jr., Temple
- **LB** **Terrance Plummer,** Sr., UCF
- **LB** **Efrem Oliphant,** Sr., Houston
- **CB** **Jacoby Glenn,** So., UCF
- **CB** **Lorenzo Doss,** Jr., Tulane
- **S** **Demarco Nelson,** Sr., Tulsa
- **S** **Trevon Stewart,** Sr., Houston

Specialists

- **K** **Marvin Kloss,** Sr., South Florida
- **P** **Peter Picerelli,** Jr., Tulane

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The senior quarterback has caused sleepless nights for defensive coordinators thanks to his passing precision and instincts. He was Conference USA's MVP in 2013.

Shane Carden

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The senior linebacker was the Fiesta Bowl's defensive MVP, capping a 2013 season that included first-team all-conference honors. He led the Knights with 110 tackles last year.

STANBACK: JOHN RAOUX / AP; CARDEN: GERRY BROOME / AP

ASCENDING

HOUSTON

The Cougars will break in the new Houston Football Stadium with an exciting young quarterback (John O'Korn) and an opportunistic defense that has some serious bite to it.

DESCENDING

TULSA

At this time last season, the Golden Hurricane was a defending league champion with a wave of momentum. After a 3-9 season, this could be a make-or-break year in determining the program's direction.

2 Gunner Kiel makes his debut: The high-profile five-star recruit and Notre Dame transfer will finally get his chance to play this season when Cincinnati faces Toledo in the opener.

3 UConn gets serious: Former Notre Dame defensive coordinator Bob Diaco is the Huskies new coach and hopes to rejuvenate a program that's gone 13-23 over the last three years.

RATING THE AMERICAN ATHLETIC

FASTEST RECEIVER
Cedric Lancaster, SMU
Mustangs coach June Jones says he is the most explosive player he's coached in a long time.

BEST HANDS
Justin Hardy, WR, East Carolina
While best known for what he can do after the catch, Hardy has grabbed 266 passes in his career.

BEST PASSING QB
Gunner Kiel, Cincinnati
The Notre Dame transfer was considered the nation's top pro-style quarterback after high school.

BEST RUNNING QB
P.J. Walker, Temple
The sophomore quarterback finished with six runs covering 22 yards or more in his freshman season.

MOST ELUSIVE RB
P.J. Walker, Temple
When third-down plays began to break down last season, Walker's ability to get outside the pocket kept Owl drives alive.

BEST INSTINCTS
Shane Carden, QB, East Carolina
He may be a product of ECU's pass-happy attack, but Carden consistently makes the right decisions on throws.

BEST ATHLETE
Mekale McKay, WR, Cincinnati
McKay was a TD machine last year. He only caught 16 balls, but scored seven times and averaged 30.3 yards per catch.

PLAYER MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (OFF THE FIELD)
Brandon Hayes, RB, Memphis
Hayes plans to take advantage of a rare sixth year of eligibility awarded him by the NCAA following a 2010 knee injury.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Marvin Kloss, PK, South Florida
He connected on 11 field goals of 40 yards or more last season and four of 50-plus. He made 13 straight at one point.

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Eric Lefeld, LT, Cincinnati
A former defensive lineman, he has excelled on the offensive line, where he is a two-time all-conference honoree.

TOP IMPACT FROSH
Kevin Mouhon, LB, Cincinnati
The Georgia product plays downhill and fills running lanes.

HARDEST HITTER
Tyler Matakevich, OLB, Temple
Made presence felt in every '13 game; 24 tackles vs. Idaho.

BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER
Casey Cochran, QB, Connecticut
He entered '13 second on the depth chart, was surpassed in midseason and retook the job to go 3-1 down the stretch.

BEST INTERVIEW
Tommy Tuberville, head coach, Cincinnati
Maybe it's his calm voice or cut-to-the-chase answers, but the veteran coach puts the media at ease.

BEST COACH AS STRATEGIST
George O'Leary, UCF
In years past, his defense won games. Last season, with an NFL-caliber quarterback, the offense was solid.

BEST COACH AS RECRUITER
Willie Taggart, South Florida
In his first full recruiting cycle since taking over the program, the coach posted the consensus top class in the American.

HOTTEST SEAT
Bill Blankenship, Tulsa
The seat turned at least lukewarm after last year's 3-9 mark.

BEST VENUE
East Carolina, Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium
It'll be interesting to watch new league schools making their first visit to "rowdy Dowdy" and Greenville, N.C.

UCF KNIGHTS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

AMERICAN ATHLETIC

1

Breshad Perriman

2014 SN 25 NATIONAL RANK

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Penn State*	34-31
S.13	@ MISSOURI	
S.20	Bethune-Cookman	
O.2	@ HOUSTON	19-14
O.9	BYU	
O.18	Tulane	
O.25	Temple	39-36
N.1	@ CONNECTICUT	62-17
N.14	Tulsa	
N.22	SMU	17-13
N.28	@ SOUTH FLORIDA	23-20
D.4	@ EAST CAROLINA	

* At Dublin, Ireland

COACH

George O'Leary
11th year (72-56)
Career record: 124-89

Offensive coordinator: Charlie Taaffe (sixth year)
Defensive coordinator: Paul Ferraro (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 12-1
(Beat Baylor in the Fiesta Bowl, 52-42)
Stadium: Bright House Networks Stadium (45,323)
Tickets: 407-UCF-1000
Site: Orlando
Website: ucfathletics.com
Twitter: @UCF_Football

George O'Leary looked like the nation's loneliest coach during Conference USA preseason media days back in 2005.

Not many media members were approaching the UCF coach after his football team finished 0-11 in the previous campaign. The prospects weren't good heading into the 2005 season.

O'Leary led his team to the league championship game that year. And since that winless season, the veteran coach has guided the Knights to three conference championships, including last year's American Athletic Conference title.

How has he turned things around in Orlando over the past decade?

"We've had a lot of good years, but the thing that had haunted us was a lack of consistency," says O'Leary, who is entering his 11th season. "Three of the past four years, we've won 11, 10 and 12 games. The key is each year we've gotten better. Now the consistency is starting to pay off in talent level and recruiting. We're starting to get depth in the program."

The Knights' success makes UCF the league favorite in 2014 after a magical year that included a 12-1 record, league championship and Fiesta Bowl upset victory over Baylor.

O'Leary used spring football as a bridge from the BCS Bowl victory to high expectations rolling into 2014.

"It really started during winter conditioning," O'Leary says. "I told them we enjoyed the Fiesta Bowl, but it's over. We have a new team and need to develop new chemistry; during spring ball, we improved each day.

Difference-maker

Breshad Perriman, WR

His name is derived from his father's, Brett Perriman, a former University of Miami and Detroit Lions wideout. But B.P. could—should—stand for "Big Play," as evidenced by his 20.8-yard receiving average in 2013. On just the second play of the season against Akron, the speedster broke one loose for a 91-yard touchdown, the longest catch in UCF history.

"The thing we've taken is that the Fiesta Bowl has set an expectation level with the team."

Finding a replacement for quarterback Blake Bortles will be the top priority. The Knights have a pair of underclassmen that will get good looks, with the edge possibly going to sophomore Justin Holman over redshirt freshman Pete DiNovo. A backup last season, Holman threw 14 passes, completing nine for 75 yards.

"We're going to keep it real simple," O'Leary says. "We just want someone who can execute and move the chains. We have enough big-play potential on offense. We have weapons so we don't have to lean on the

PERRIMAN: RICK SCUTERI / AP

quarterback to be the guy. He has weapons that he can use and help take pressure off of him."

The new quarterback will have sophomore running back William Stanback (105 carries, 443 yards, 6 touchdowns) in the backfield with him along with four of the top five wide receivers from 2013.

Seniors Rannell Hall (57 catches, 886 yards, 5 touchdowns) and J.J. Worton (47, 721, 7) drew heavy attention last year, as did junior Breshad Perriman (39, 811, 4). All will try to help the new quarterback get acclimated.

The Knights will welcome back nine starters off a defense that was 17th nationally in points allowed.

Middle linebacker Terrance Plummer (team-high 110 tackles) will anchor the unit. Strong safety Clayton Geathers added 100 stops and will be alongside free safety Brandon Alexander (63 tackles, 3 interceptions) in the secondary.

O'Leary also pointed to the play of cornerback Jacoby Glenn (52 tackles, 2 interceptions, 15 pass breakups) and end Thomas Niles (30 tackles, 4 sacks).

"We have a lot of experience (on defense) which will help," O'Leary says.

The schedule is challenging from the start. The Knights have a season-opening game against Penn State in Dublin, Ireland, and then, following an open date, travel to play the SEC's Missouri Tigers. Those two games could set the tone for UCF's season.

"We have a good nonconference schedule and I thought that was the difference last year," says O'Leary, whose team defeated Akron and Penn State before dropping a 28-25 decision to South Carolina. "You have to win each game that you play, especially if you have the intention of getting into the new (college football) playoff."

BOTTOM LINE

If UCF has success in its nonconference schedule, it could be a team to watch in October and November as a dark horse for a playoff spot. Like O'Leary says, though, winning will be the main objective each week. The Knights can't worry about things they can't control, which includes the votes of the newly formed College Football Playoff committee.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Central Florida didn't sign a huge class, finishing with only 17 players. The coaching staff didn't have to search far for talent, signing nine players from Georgia, seven from Florida and another from New York. Three safeties top the list. The gem may be Gibson, who was ranked among the nation's top safeties by most recruiting services. Williams may press for early action in the UCF secondary, as could Rogers. Even if none get on the field, the trio will provide much-needed depth for the future.

"That's what recruiting is about: Did you meet the needs for next season as far as from a depth standpoint to help you maintain the consistency that we've had here?" coach George O'Leary says.

TOP SIGNEES

1 • **Kyle Gibson,** S ★★★★
2 • **Chris Williams,** S ★★★
3 • **Mike Rogers,** S ★★★

NILES: CHRIS SZAGOLA / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Justin Holman	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	3	118.6	9-14-1	64.3	75	1	25.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
William Stanback	13	105	443	4.2	6	34.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Rannell Hall	13	57	886	15.5	5	68.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Terrance Plummer	13	62	48	110

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Thomas Niles	13	4.0	16

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Brandon Alexander	3	0	0.0	0

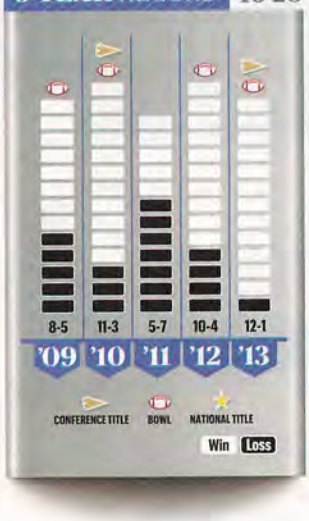
Thomas Niles

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	UCF	OPP
SCORING	450	277
Points Per Game	34.6	21.3
FIRST DOWNS	291	248
Rushing	114	88
Passing	153	139
Penalty	24	21
RUSHING YARDAGE	2079	1592
Yards gained rushing	2395	1928
Yards lost rushing	316	336
Rushing Attempts	471	400
Average Per Rush	4.4	4.0
Average Per Game	159.9	122.5
TDs Rushing	28	21
PASSING YARDAGE	3661	3114
Comp-Att-Int	269-404-11	272-479-14
Average Per Pass	9.1	6.5
Average Per Catch	13.6	11.4
Average Per Game	281.6	239.5
TDs Passing	26	13
TOTAL OFFENSE	5740	4706
Total Plays	875	879
Average Per Play	6.6	5.4
Average Per Game	441.5	362.0
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	41-923	62-1259
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	18-194	18-91
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	14-112	11-68
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.5	20.3
PUNT RETURN AVG.	10.8	5.1
INT RETURN AVG.	8.0	6.2
FUMBLES-LOST	20-10	21-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	62-541	92-745
Average Per Game	41.6	57.3
PUNTS-YARDS	43-1714	66-2710
Average Per Punt	39.9	41.1
Net punt average	35.4	36.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:12	27:48
3RD-DOWN CONV.	77/158	77/187
3rd-Down Pct.	49%	41%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	3/8	8/20
4th-Down Pct.	38%	40%
SACKS BY-YARDS	29-163	22-149
MISC YARDS	-14	0
TDS SCORED	55	36
FG-ATTEMPTS	21-24	8-12
ATTENDANCE	252505	226930
Games/Avg Per Game	6/42084	6/37822
Neutral Site Games		1/65172

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
UCF	95	139	110	106	0	450
Opponent	37	75	70	95	0	277

5-YEAR RECORD 46-20



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB Justin Holman (6-4, 207, So.)
Pete DiNovo (6-1, 205, Fr.)
RB William Stanback (5-11, 221, So.)
Dontravious Wilson (5-10, 212, So.)
LT Michael Campbell (6-6, 280, So.)
Aaron Evans (6-5, 282, Fr.)
LG Torrian Wilson (6-3, 305, Sr.)
Kelly Parfitt (6-5, 316, So.)
C Joey Grant (6-2, 291, Jr.)
Jason Rae (5-10, 290, So.)
RG Tarik Cook (6-2, 295, Jr.)
Colby Watson (6-4, 318, So.)
RT Chester Brown (6-5, 325, So.)
Tate Hernly (6-2, 291, Fr.)
TE Justin Tukes (6-5, 255, Sr.)
Kevin Miller (6-4, 255, Jr.)
WR Breshad Perriman (6-2, 214, Jr.)
Taylor Oldham (6-1, 200, So.)
WR J.J. Worton (6-2, 209, Sr.)
Jackie Williams (5-11, 190, Sr.)
WR Rannell Hall (6-1, 200, Sr.)
Josh Reese (6-0, 180, Sr.)

Defense

DE Luke Adams (6-4, 260, So.)
Stanley Sylverain (6-1, 230, So.)
DT Jaryl Mamea (6-1, 273, Sr.)
Rob Sauvao (6-2, 276, Sr.)
DT Demetris Anderson (6-2, 299, Jr.)
Tony Guerad (6-3, 290, Fr.)
DE Thomas Niles (6-2, 266, Jr.)
Miles Pace (6-2, 256, Jr.)
OLB Justin McDonald (6-2, 211, So.)
Willie Mitchell (6-0, 240, Sr.)
MLB Terrance Plummer (6-1, 241, Sr.)
Domenic Spencer (5-10, 229, Jr.)
OLB Troy Gray (6-1, 210, Sr.)
Chequan Burkett (6-1, 212, Fr.)
CB Jacoby Glenn (6-0, 178, So.)
D.J. Killings (5-10, 180, So.)
CB Jordan Ozerities (5-10, 191, Sr.)
Shaquill Griffin (6-1, 192, So.)
FS Brandon Alexander (6-2, 195, Sr.)
Jared Henry (5-11, 208, So.)
SS Clayton Geathers (6-2, 208, Sr.)
Drico Johnson (6-2, 209, So.)

Specialists

K Shawn Moffitt (5-11, 180, Sr.)
P Caleb Houston (6-2, 200, So.)

Sporting News All-American

CINCINNATI BEARCATS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
AMERICAN ATHLETIC
2

Ralph David Abernathy IV

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
S.12	Toledo	
S.20	Miami (OH)	14-0
S.27	@ OHIO STATE	
O.4	Memphis	34-21
O.11	@ MIAMI (FL)	
O.18	@ SMU	28-25
O.24	South Florida	20-26
O.31	@ TULANE	
N.15	East Carolina	
N.22	@ CONNECTICUT	41-16
N.29	@ TEMPLE	38-20
D.6	Houston	24-17

COACH
Tommy Tuberville
Second year (9-4)
Career record: 140-81

Offensive coordinator: Eddie Gran (second year)
Defensive coordinators: Hank Hughes (first year) Robert Prunty (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 9-4
(Lost to North Carolina in the Belk Bowl, 39-17)
Stadium: Paul Brown Stadium (65,535–*for 2014 while renovations are done on Nippert Stadium*)
Tickets: 877-CATS-TIX
Site: Cincinnati
Website: gobearcats.com
Twitter: @Bearcats_FB

Quarterback Gunner Kiel appears headed for his first competitive football game in 1,000-plus days this fall.

The Notre Dame transfer, who hasn't played since high school, emerged as the top quarterback following Cincinnati's spring drills. If the former five-star recruit reaches his potential, he could have the Bearcats looking forward to their fourth consecutive bowl game and a possible league championship.

Kiel's journey to Cincinnati came after flipping from verbal commitments to Indiana and LSU and then leaving South Bend. He sat out last season, but benefited from grasping the Bearcats' pass-heavy attack.

Kiel will have valuable weapons at wide receiver, highlighted by Shaq Washington, Chris Moore and Mekale McKay. Washington caught 78 passes for 783 yards last season. Moore, whom second-year coach Tommy Tuberville calls the team's best receiver, had 45 receptions for 645 yards and nine touchdowns. McKay averaged an incredible 30.3 yards per catch on 16 grabs (485 yards) with seven going for touchdowns.

Finding a running back to complement the pass game will be important. Hosey Williams, a junior-college transfer, returns after rushing for 655 yards last season. Tion Green (91 rushes, 412 yards) could also draw some touches.

Defensively, the Bearcats were a stingy group and allowed only 21 points per game (which ranked 14th nationally in 2013) and were ninth in total defense.

Hank Hughes, who spent 13 seasons at Connecticut, returns to campus as the co-defensive coordinator. He will try to continue Cincinnati's recent success.

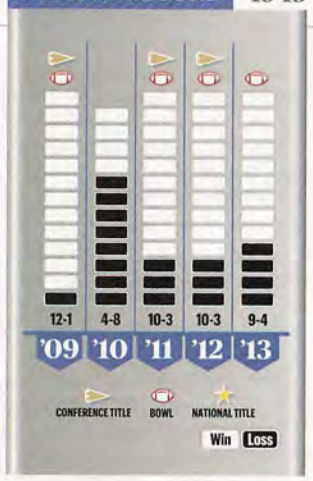
The linebackers will be the strongest position, with Jeff Luc and Nick Temple anchoring the spot. Temple ended with 80 tackles and Luc had 43 stops.

Difference-maker
Ralph D. Abernathy IV, RB

If the name sounds familiar, it's for good reason. The grandson of civil rights leader Ralph Abernathy—Martin Luther King Jr.'s closest associate—Abernathy gets the bulk of the carries in a triumvirate that includes Tion Green and Hosey Williams. The player teammates call "RDA4" was a jack-of-all-trades last season, leading the Bearcats with 1,046 all-purpose yards. He's a 5-7 jitterbug who is a threat to take it to the house every time he touches the ball.

BOTTOM LINE
Gunner Kiel will be the biggest storyline for UC heading into 2014. If the quarterback can continue to develop as the season goes on, the Bearcats have a good shot at threatening UCF for the conference championship.

5-YEAR RECORD 45-19



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Gunner Kiel (6-4, 208, So.)
RB Hosey Williams (5-9, 199, Sr.)
LT Eric Lefeld (6-6, 309, Sr.)
LG Kevin Schloemer (6-7, 312, Sr.)
C Deyshawn Bond (6-2, 287, So.)
RG Parker Ehinger (6-7, 292, Jr.)
RT Cory Keebler (6-7, 294, Sr.)
WR Mekale McKay (6-6, 195, Jr.)
WR Max Morrison (6-1, 173, Jr.)
WR Chris Moore (6-1, 190, Jr.)
WR Shaq Washington (5-9, 174, Jr.)

Defense
DE Silverberry Mouhon (6-4, 248, Jr.)
DT Brandon Mitchell (6-2, 308, Jr.)
DT Camaron Beard (6-5, 287, Sr.)
DE Terrell Hartsfield (6-3, 246, Sr.)
SLB Nick Temple (5-10, 218, Sr.)
MLB Jeff Luc (6-1, 251, Sr.)
WLB Eric Wilson (6-2, 205, So.)
CB Adrian Witty (5-10, 187, Sr.)
CB Howard Wilder (5-11, 180, Sr.)
FS Zach Edwards (5-11, 186, So.)
SS Mike Tyson (6-2, 200, So.)

Specialists
K Tony Miliano (6-2, 186, Sr.)
P John Lloyd (6-2, 237, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES
1 ▸ **Kevin Mouhon,** ILB ★★★
2 ▸ **Casey Gladney,** WR ★★★
3 ▸ **Hakeem Allonce,** DT ★★★

The Bearcats received a gem in Mouhon, a 6-0, 223-pound inside linebacker from Norcross, Ga. Mouhon will be a good bet to break into the linebacker rotation depending upon how quickly he picks things up during fall camp.

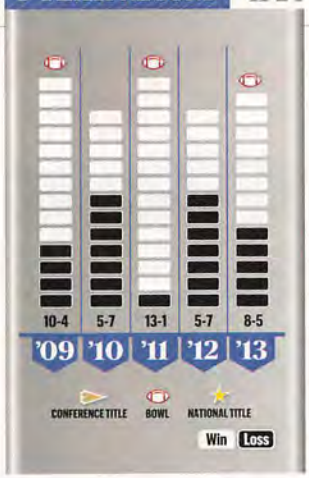
The Bearcats mined Ohio for some key talent and received solid signings from offensive linemen Ja'Merez Bowen and Luke Callahan.

Keep an eye on the dangerous 6-2, 185-pound Gladney from the Mississippi junior-college ranks (Copiah-Lincoln CC). He could break into a deep rotation at wide receiver.

ABERNATHY IV: AL BEHRMAN / AP

HOUSTON COUGARS

5-YEAR RECORD 41-24



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB John O'Korn (6-4, 205, So.)
RB Kenneth Farrow (5-11, 216, Jr.)
LT Alex Cooper (6-4, 302, Jr.)
LG Emeka Okafor (6-5, 322, Jr.)
C Bryce Redman (6-1, 285, Sr.)
RG Rowdy Harper (6-6, 295, Sr.)
RT Damian Paris (6-5, 310, Jr.)
WR Greg Ward Jr. (5-10, 175, So.)
WR Deontay Greenberry (6-3, 198, Jr.)
WR Daniel Spencer (5-11, 195, Sr.)
WR Demarcus Ayers (5-10, 173, So.)

Defense

DE Cameron Malveaux (6-6, 252, So.)
DT Joey Mbu (6-3, 312, Sr.)
DT B.J. Singleton (6-4, 285, So.)
DE Trevor Harris (6-5, 233, Sr.)
OLB Efrem Oliphant (6-1, 230, Sr.)
MLB Derrick Mathews (6-0, 214, Sr.)
OLB Steven Taylor (6-1, 211, So.)
CB William Jackson (6-1, 175, Jr.)
CB Turon Walker (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS Trevon Stewart (5-9, 192, Jr.)
SS Adrian McDonald (5-10, 191, Jr.)

Specialists

K Kyle Bullard (5-11, 170, Jr.)
P Dylan Seibert (6-3, 220, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Zach Vaughan,** DE ★★★
2. **Jeremy Winchester,** S ★★★
3. **Carter Wall,** OT ★★★

Houston, with the large number of Division 1 recruits in its metro area, won't ever be without quality hometown players, as evidenced by the 13 local signatures received in February.

The 2014 class was defense-heavy and highlighted by six linemen and six defensive backs. The team also added a pair of linebackers.

Houston has leaned on true freshmen to play in years past and it's possible that could happen again. The player to watch in that regard is the 6-4, 220-pound Vaughan, an in-state product UH beat Colorado and Texas Tech for.

Efrem Oliphant

Houston has been known for its high-powered offenses and the star power of former quarterbacks Case Keenum and Kevin Kolb.

The newest gunslinger in Houston is John O'Korn and, if his freshman season was an indication, he'll soon be placing his name alongside those UH prodigies.

O'Korn was named the American's Rookie of the Year after taking over in Week Three for injured starter David Piland. O'Korn's first-year numbers were impressive as he was 259-of-446 passing for 3,117 yards. He tossed 28 touchdowns against 10 interceptions.

This season, he'll have the nucleus of the offense returning, including running backs Ryan Jackson (661 rushing yards) and Kenneth Farrow (514).

O'Korn also has his favorite target back in wide receiver Deontay Greenberry. He finished with 82 catches for 1,202 yards and 11 touchdowns. His receiving yards ranked 17th nationally. Daniel Spencer is also expected to play a role in the passing game. The wideout finished with 52 grabs for 768 yards.

While the offense has a chance to remain powerful–it had 32 scoring drives that lasted two minutes or less and 16 in under a minute–the Cougars' defense is battling for main-attraction status.

The Houston defense was opportunistic last year, helping secure an eye-popping plus-25 turnover margin. The team led the nation with 43 forced turnovers (25 interceptions and 18 fumble recoveries).

Free safety Trevon Stewart was often found near loose balls. He had 10 takeaways, including six fumble recoveries and four interceptions.

The defense allowed only 21.8 points per game, the program's lowest output since 1999. Highlighting the group are returning linebackers Efrem Oliphant (134 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, 3 sacks) and Derrick Mathews (116, 12, 7). Keep a close watch on Trevon Randle, an LSU transfer who sat out last year.

The Cougars finished 8-5 last season but lost four of their final five games, including a 41-24 setback against Vanderbilt in the BBVA Compass Bowl.

Difference-maker

Efrem Oliphant, LB

The 230-pound Oliphant feasted on running backs in 2013. His stats are a mouthful: 134 tackles, 10.3 tackles per game, 13 tackles for loss and double-digit tackles in eight games. He surprisingly chose to stay in school and ignore early entry into the NFL Draft.

BOTTOM LINE

The program will play in the new Houston Football Stadium (with its 40,000 seat capacity), which could be the setting for a special football season. If the defense can maintain its style of play, the Cougars could challenge for a league championship.

3 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
AMERICAN ATHLETIC

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.29	Texas-San Antonio	59-28
S.6	Grambling State	
S.11	@ BYU	46-47
S.27	Tennessee Tech	
O.2	UCF	14-19
O.11	@ MEMPHIS	25-15
O.17	Temple	22-13
N.1	@ SOUTH FLORIDA	35-23
N.8	Tulane	
N.22	Tulsa	
N.28	@ SMU	34-0
D.6	@ CINCINNATI	17-24

COACH

Tony Levine
Third year (14-12)
Career record: 14-12

Offensive coordinator: Travis Bush (second year)
Defensive coordinator: David Gibbs (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Lost to Vanderbilt in the BBVA Compass Bowl, 41-24)
Stadium: Houston Stadium (40,000)
Tickets: 877-COUGAR-5
Site: Houston
Website: uhcougars.com
Twitter: @UHCougarFB

OLIPHANT: PAT SULLIVAN / AP

4 EAST CAROLINA PIRATES

Football was fun at East Carolina last season.

The program finished 10-3, just the second time in school history it has ended with double-digit victories. The Pirates won six of their final seven games, including a victory over Ohio in the Beef 'O'Brady's St. Petersburg Bowl. The quarterback-wide receiver duo of Shane Carden and Justin Hardy lit up opposing secondaries and the scoreboard. Both sides of the football ranked among the top 15 nationally in 12 statistical categories.

For fifth-year coach Ruffin McNeill, it was much-needed momentum as the program enters the American Athletic Conference.

The team will bring in the league's top quarterback in Carden, who was Conference USA's MVP last season. Carden was 387-of-549 (70.5 completion percentage) for 4,139 passing yards last year. He threw 33 touchdown passes compared with just 10 interceptions.

Hardy was his top target, grabbing 114 receptions for 1,284 yards and eight touchdowns. He'll lead a group of wide receivers that arguably could be the league's best.

There will be plenty of work to do on the defensive side of the ball. The team must fill seven defensive slots, including three linebackers and three defensive backs.

The Pirates, who use an uptempo, high-powered offense, are coming off one of their better defensive seasons. The unit ranked 36th nationally in total defense.

BOTTOM LINE: East Carolina, if it can find replacements for key parts of the defense, has an opportunity to frustrate opponents this season. The Pirates have confidence after a 10-win season. American schools unfamiliar with East Carolina's offensive style of play will have to adjust quickly.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	North Carolina Central	
S.6	@ SOUTH CAROLINA	
S.13	@ VIRGINIA TECH	10-15
S.20	North Carolina	55-31
O.4	SMU	
O.11	@ SOUTH FLORIDA	
O.23	Connecticut	
N.1	@ TEMPLE	
N.15	@ CINCINNATI	
N.22	Tulane	33-36
N.28	@ TULSA	58-24
D.4	UCF	

COACH

Ruffin McNeill
Fifth year (29-22)
Career record: 30-22

Offensive coordinator: Lincoln Riley (fifth year)
Defensive coordinator: Rick Smith (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 10-3
(Beat Ohio in the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl, 37-20)
Stadium: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (50,000)
Tickets: 252-737-4500
Site: Greenville, N.C.
Website: ecupirates.com
Twitter: @ECUPiratesFB

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Shane Carden (6-2, 221, Sr.)
RB Breon Allen (5-8, 190, Sr.)
LT Ike Harris (6-7, 304, Jr.)
LG Larry Williams (6-4, 337, Fr.)
C Taylor Hudson (6-5, 285, Sr.)
RG J.T. Boyd (6-4, 302, So.)
RT Tre Robertson (6-5, 310, Jr.)
WR Cam Worthy (6-2, 220, Sr.)
WR Isaiah Jones (6-1, 186, So.)
WR Justin Hardy (6-0, 188, Sr.)
WR Davon Grayson (6-2, 196, So.)

Defense

DE Johnathon White (6-4, 292, Jr.)
NT Terry Williams (6-1, 353, Sr.)
DE Fred Presley (6-3, 300, So.)
OLB Montese Overton (6-3, 220, Jr.)
ILB Zeek Bigger (6-2, 228, Jr.)
ILB Brandon Williams (6-1, 230, Jr.)
OLB Maurice Falls (6-2, 247, Sr.)
CB Josh Hawkins (5-10, 186, Jr.)
CB Detric Allen (6-0, 200, Sr.)
FS Domonique Lennon (6-2, 205, Jr.)
SS Terrell Richardson (6-0, 210, So.)

Specialists

K Warren Harvey (5-11, 225, Sr.)
P Worth Gregory (6-3, 205, So.)

Sporting News All-American

5 SMU MUSTANGS

College football fans aren't excited when their teams face rebuilding seasons.

The SMU Mustangs took a hit last year, finishing 5-7 and missing the postseason for the first time in five seasons.

Things could be just as difficult this year for offense-minded coach June Jones, who must introduce a new quarterback, running back and replace two 1,000-yard receivers.

Neal Burcham could be the front-runner to take over Jones' run-and-gun attack style. Burcham has big-game action after filling in for Garrett Gilbert in contests against Houston and UCF in 2013.

The Mustangs will turn to do-everything fifth-year senior Kevin Pope at running back. He began his career at the position but switched to linebacker, where he started 11 games for the Mustangs last year and recorded 91 tackles. He also had 11 carries and five catches for a total of 150 yards in the last two games.

Wide receiver Cedric Lancaster could be one to watch. One of the team's fastest players, the slot receiver missed his freshman season with a back injury but is fully healthy now.

Linebacker Stephon Sanders (86) is the defense's top returning tackler.

The cornerback spot will be a point of emphasis. The Mustangs must replace two starters as well as a safety.

The "Richardson" trio could play a factor in the secondary. The unrelated players are fighting for vacant spots at cornerback (Horace Richardson and J.R. Richardson) and at safety (Darrion Richardson).

BOTTOM LINE: June Jones has done an excellent job of bringing a stagnant program back into the national limelight. It will be important for the future of the SMU program that the team starts winning again. It could begin with Burcham and his ability as a young player to grasp the offense and do what it takes to be a successful college quarterback.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.31	@ BAYLOR	
S.6	@ NORTH TEXAS	
S.20	Texas A&M	13-42
S.27	TCU	17-48
O.4	@ EAST CAROLINA	
O.18	Cincinnati	25-28
O.25	Memphis	34-29
N.8	@ TULSA	
N.15	South Florida	16-6
N.22	@ UCF	13-17
N.28	Houston	0-34
D.6	@ CONNECTICUT	38-21

COACH

June Jones
Seventh year (36-41)
Career record: 112-82

Offensive coordinators: Dan Morrison (seventh year), Jason Phillips (fourth year)
Defensive coordinator: Tom Mason (seventh year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 5-7
Stadium: Gerald J. Ford Stadium (32,000)
Tickets: 214-768-4263
Site: Dallas
Website: smumustangs.com
Twitter: @SMU_Football

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Neal Burcham (6-3, 207, So.)
RB Kevin Pope (5-10, 225, Sr.)
LT Chauncey Briggs (6-5, 295, So.)
LG Seaver Meyers (6-6, 290, So.)
C Taylor Lasecki (6-3, 296, Jr.)
RG Daniel McCarty (6-4, 285, So.)
RT Kris Weeks (6-5, 310, Jr.)
WR Der'rikk Thompson (5-11, 190, Sr.)
WR Cedric Lancaster (5-8, 165, Fr.)
WR Darius Joseph (6-0, 195, So.)
WR Jeremiah Gaines (6-2, 235, Fr.)

Defense

DE Beau Barnes (6-5, 255, Sr.)
NT Darrian Wright (6-2, 280, Sr.)
DE Zach Wood (6-3, 258, Jr.)
OLB Stephon Sanders (6-3, 250, Sr.)
ILB Nick Horton (6-3, 215, So.)
ILB Jonathan Yenga (6-2, 215, Jr.)
OLB Robert Seals (6-3, 225, Jr.)
CB Horace Richardson (6-0, 190, So.)
CB J.R. Richardson (5-9, 182, So.)
FS Hayden Greenbauer (6-0, 205, Sr.)
SS Darrion Richardson (6-0, 195, Fr.)

Specialists

K Cody Rademacher (5-10, 185, Jr.)
P Jackson Koonce (6-1, 160, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

6 TULANE GREEN WAVE

Tulane football will get a much-needed new look this season.

The school will introduce Yulman Stadium, a $73 million on-campus facility that will house the Green Wave.

The new stadium comes following a celebratory season that ended with Tulane's most wins (7-6) and first bowl appearance (New Orleans Bowl) since 2002.

Third-year coach Curtis Johnson will return seven offensive starters, but it's a newcomer who could turn heads this season.

Redshirt freshman Tanner Lee has been touted as the program's top passing quarterback and was listed with Devin Powell atop the post-spring depth chart. The Green Wave also has returning starter Nick Montana (NFL Hall of Famer Joe's son) on the roster.

While Tulane must continue to mature on the offensive line and find a talented tight end to fit into Johnson's pro-style system, the defense will look to keep things status quo.

Tulane rode its defense many times last season and returns six starters from a unit that finished 22nd nationally in total defense and 17th against the run.

The unit is anchored by cornerback Lorenzo Doss, a second-team Walter Camp All-American in 2013. He had seven interceptions (and ranked fourth nationally in picks per game), nine pass breakups and 34 tackles.

Linebacker Nico Marley (reggae legend Bob's grandson) was Conference USA's co-Freshman of the Year after finishing with 67 tackles and 10 tackles for loss. Remaining healthy is key, as Tulane isn't deep at the position.

Tulane must finish the season stronger as well. After the Green Wave began last year 6-2, it fell in four of its final five games.

BOTTOM LINE: With the new stadium and coming off a winning season, the Green Wave is trending up. But will that continue with the move to the American? A big key is for the program to stay healthy, as depth could be a problem across the board.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	@ TULSA	14-7
S.6	Georgia Tech	
S.13	Southeastern Louisiana	
S.20	@ DUKE	
S.27	@ RUTGERS	
O.11	Connecticut	
O.18	@ UCF	
O.31	Cincinnati	
N.8	@ HOUSTON	
N.15	Memphis	
N.22	@ EAST CAROLINA	36-33
D.6	Temple	

COACH

Curtis Johnson
Third year (9-16)
Career record: 9-16

Offensive coordinator: Eric Price (third year)
Defensive coordinators: Jon Sumrall (third year)
Lionel Washington (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Lost to Louisiana in the New Orleans Bowl, 24-21)
Stadium: Yulman Stadium (30,000)
Tickets: 504-861-WAVE
Site: New Orleans
Website: tulanegreenwave.com
Twitter: @GreenWaveFB

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Tanner Lee (6-4, 203, Fr.)
FB	Lazedrick Thompson (6-0, 209, So.)
RB	Sherman Badie (5-10, 192, Fr.)
LT	Arturo Uzdavinis (6-6, 295, Jr.)
LG	Colton Hanson (6-5, 318, So.)
C	Nathan Shienle (6-5, 317, So.)
RG	Chris Taylor (6-1, 324, So.)
RT	Sean Donnelly (6-8, 312, Sr.)
TE	Matt Marfisi (6-6, 252, Sr.)
WR	Justyn Shackleford (5-11, 174, Sr.)
WR	Xavier Rush (6-2, 194, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Royce LaFrance (6-3, 244, Jr.)
DT	Tanzel Smart (6-2, 331, So.)
NT	Corey Redwine (6-0, 316, Jr.)
DE	Tyler Gilbert (6-3, 244, Sr.)
OLB	Jarrod Franklin (5-11, 194, So.)
MLB	Eric Thomas (5-9, 234, So.)
OLB	Nico Marley (5-8, 180, So.)
CB	Taurean Nixon (6-0, 185, Sr.)
CB	Lorenzo Doss (5-11, 175, Jr.)
FS	Sam Scofield (6-1, 183, Sr.)
SS	Darion Monroe (5-10, 189, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Steven Broccoli (5-7, 155, Jr.)
P	Peter Picerelli (6-1, 190, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

7 TULSA GOLDEN HURRICANE

No college football team had more disappointment than Tulsa in 2013.

The Golden Hurricane, coming off a Conference USA title and Liberty Bowl triumph, fell flat last year after finishing 3-9. It was the football team's worst season since ending 1-11 in 2002.

Offensive production was the key reason for the drop-off and things may be just as rocky this year. Tulsa returns only four starters and needs to find a new quarterback and running back.

Dane Evans did get five starts late last season, but struggled with his passing. He completed 84 of 195 attempts for 898 yards and had only four TD passes compared with 10 interceptions. Joseph Calcagni is also vying for playing time at quarterback.

The running back position may be taken over by junior-college transfer Tavarreon Dickerson, with holdover James Flanders also getting an opportunity. At wide receiver, Keyarris Garrett is expected back after a leg injury prematurely ended his 2013 season. The new quarterback will also have Keevan Lucas (32 catches, 442 yards) at his disposal.

A youthful defense that took some lumps last year will return 10 starters. Ends Derrick Alexander and Chris Hummingbird and tackle Derrick Luetjen anchor the line. Linebacker will be thin, but Trent Martin, Mitchell Osborne and Donnell Hawkins will try to make plays.

The secondary will be the team's strength, highlighted by the return of free safety Demarco Nelson, who sat out 2013 to focus on academics. Strong safety Michael Mudoh had 133 tackles last season, while cornerback Darnell Walker's four interceptions were the most of any returnee.

BOTTOM LINE: Time will tell if Tulsa will be able to make the adjustment after a disappointing season. The Golden Hurricane needs the offense to find a way to produce while a young defense thrown into the fire last season will have to mature.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Tulane	7-14
S.6	Oklahoma	20-51
S.13	@ FLORIDA ATLANTIC	
S.27	Texas State	
O.4	@ COLORADO STATE	30-27
O.11	@ TEMPLE	
O.18	South Florida	
O.31	@ MEMPHIS	
N.8	SMU	
N.14	@ UCF	
N.22	@ HOUSTON	
N.28	East Carolina	24-58

COACH

Bill Blankenship
Fourth year (22-17)
Career record: 22-17

Offensive coordinator: Denver Johnson (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Brent Guy (fourth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 3-9
Stadium: H.A. Chapman Stadium (30,000)
Tickets: 918-631-GoTU
Site: Tulsa, Okla.
Website: tulsahurricane.com
Twitter: @TulsaHurricane

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Dane Evans (6-2, 200, So.)
RB	James Flanders (5-11, 186, So.)
H-B	Colby Scott (6-2, 242, Jr.)
LT	Garrett Stafford (6-5, 301, Jr.)
LG	Chris Wallace (6-5, 310, So.)
C	Dylan Foxworth (6-2, 265, So.)
RG	Garrett Gladd (6-4, 302, Jr.)
RT	Davis Walton (6-5, 295, Sr.)
WR	Keyarris Garrett (6-4, 207, Jr.)
WR	Keevan Lucas (5-10, 195, So.)
WR	Derek Patterson (6-0, 184, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Derrick Alexander (6-2, 270, Jr.)
DT	Jesse Brubaker (6-4, 260, So.)
DT	Derrick Luetjen (6-3, 279, Jr.)
DE	Chris Hummingbird (6-2, 258, Sr.)
OLB	Mitchell Osborne (6-2, 210, Jr.)
MLB	Trent Martin (6-2, 242, Jr.)
OLB	Donnell Hawkins (6-1, 221, Sr.)
CB	Dwight Dobbins (5-9, 173, Sr.)
CB	Darnell Walker (5-11, 165, So.)
FS	Demarco Nelson (6-0, 192, Sr.)
SS	Michael Mudoh (5-10, 198, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Carl Salazar (5-7, 158, Sr.)
P	Dalton Parks (6-3, 190, So.)

Sporting News All-American

8 UCONN HUSKIES

Life has been tough for Connecticut football fans over the past few seasons.

Since a Fiesta Bowl appearance following the 2010 campaign, the Huskies are a combined 13-23, including a three-win season last year.

The program hopes new coach Bob Diaco can inject momentum into the program. The former Notre Dame defensive coordinator spent the spring talking about how rebuilding will be a step-by-step process.

When the team welcomes BYU to Storrs in the season opener, Diaco will have a starting quarterback in place. Three returnees with four starts each will be back. Casey Cochran would appear to have the edge after taking snaps with the first team in spring drills and throwing for a school-record 461 yards and four touchdowns in the season finale against Memphis. Tim Boyle and Chandler Whitmer are also fighting for quarterback snaps.

Running back Lyle McCombs, who is second all-time in carries at UConn and fourth in rushing yards, should be the workhorse for the Huskies. Max DeLorenzo also will get touches at running back.

Wide receiver Geremy Davis has the potential to be a game-changer. He had the first 1,000-yard receiving season by any Connecticut player at the FBS level last year (71 catches, 1,085 yards, 3 TDs). Deshon Foxx (43, 534, 2) and Shakim Phillips (28, 406, 3) also have starting experience.

The defense has five returning starters, with cornerback Byron Jones and safety Obi Melifonwu providing leadership. Linebacker Jefferson Ashiru and defensive linemen Julian Campenni and Angelo Pruitt also come back for the Huskies.

BOTTOM LINE: Hiring Diaco is a step in the right direction. The no-nonsense coach will change the attitude of Connecticut football. This is a program that can have success, but rebuilding things may take some time.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.29	BYU	
S.6	Stony Brook	
S.13	Boise State	
S.19	@ SOUTH FLORIDA	10-13
S.27	Temple	28-21
O.11	@ TULANE	
O.23	@ EAST CAROLINA	
N.1	UCF	17-62
N.8	Army*	
N.22	Cincinnati	16-41
N.29	@ MEMPHIS	45-10
D.6	SMU	21-38

*At Bronx, NY

COACH
Bob Diaco
First year
Career record: N/A

Offensive coordinator: Mike Cummings (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Anthony Poindexter (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 3-9
Stadium: Rentschler Field (40,000)
Tickets: 877-AT-UCONN
Site: Storrs, Conn.
Website: uconnhuskies.com
Twitter: @UConnFootball

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Casey Cochran (6-1, 224, So.)
TB Lyle McCombs (5-8, 171, Sr.)
FB Jazzmar Clax (5-11, 241, So.)
LT Richard Levy (6-6, 305, So.)
LG Zach Rugg (6-3, 285, So.)
C Alex Mateas (6-4, 309, Sr.)
RG Tyler Samra (6-2, 288, Jr.)
RT Dalton Gifford (6-4, 304, Jr.)
TE Sean McQuillan (6-3, 239, Jr.)
WR Geremy Davis (6-3, 216, Sr.)
WR Deshon Foxx (5-10, 173, Sr.)

Defense
DE Angelo Pruitt (6-2, 287, Sr.)
DT B.J. McBryde (6-5, 304, Sr.)
DT Julian Campenni (6-0, 299, Jr.)
DE Reuben Frank (6-4, 246, Sr.)
OLB Graham Stewart (6-1, 227, Jr.)
MLB Jefferson Ashiru (6-2, 230, Jr.)
OLB Marquise Vann (6-0, 226, Jr.)
CB Byron Jones (6-1, 196, Sr.)
CB Jhavon Williams (5-10, 190, So.)
FS Obi Melifonwu (6-3, 210, So.)
SS Andrew Adams (6-0, 197, Jr.)

Specialists
K Bobby Puyol (5-10, 174, So.)
P Justin Wain (6-3, 204, So.)

Sporting News All-American

9 USF BULLS

The South Florida defense had a bit of a bite to it in coach Willie Taggart's first season. Now it's time for the program's offensive attack to catch up.

The Bulls, aided by linebacker Reshard Cliett (top returning tackler with 56 stops), ranked as the nation's 21st-best unit in total defense. Teams struggled at times moving the football against USF.

It was the offense that hurt during the 2-10 campaign. The Bulls managed an NCAA-low 11 offensive touchdowns en route to averaging just 13.8 points per game.

Will the offense improve in 2014? It will be tested with four straight home games, including Big Ten opponent Maryland and ACC foe N.C. State.

The Bulls started four different quarterbacks last season. Mike White (93-of-175 passing, 1,083 yards), who played in six games, looks to be the starter but will be pressed by backup Steven Bench, who sparkled in the spring game with a 19-of-24 outing for 317 yards.

The next quarterback will have a potent weapon at wide receiver. Andre Davis has rewritten the school's record book. Last season he had 49 catches for a single-season school-record 735 yards. He owns four receiving records at South Florida and is within range for numerous career marks.

The defensive scheme could change to a 3-4 look because of graduation hits. Linebacker Auggie Sanchez made the transition from fullback and could see playing time. Safety Nate Godwin anchors the secondary and finished last year with 49 tackles.

The team's top All-America candidate? Kicker Marvin Kloss. He was one of three finalists for the Lou Groza Award after going 18-for-23 on field goal attempts. He led the nation with four makes from 50-plus yards and 11 from 40-plus.

BOTTOM LINE: The road to success is simple: USF needs more offensive production. It won't be easy in a more competitive conference.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Western Carolina	
S.6	Maryland	
S.13	North Carolina State	
S.19	Connecticut	13-10
S.27	@ WISCONSIN	
O.11	East Carolina	
O.18	@ TULSA	
O.24	@ CINCINNATI	26-20
N.1	Houston	23-35
N.15	@ SMU	6-16
N.22	@ MEMPHIS	10-23
N.28	UCF	20-23

COACH
Willie Taggart
Second year (2-10)
Career record: 18-30

Offensive coordinator: Paul Wulff (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Chuck Bresnahan (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 2-10
Stadium: Raymond James Stadium (65,890)
Tickets: 800-GO-BULLS
Site: Tampa
Website: gousfbulls.com
Twitter: @USFFootball

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Mike White (6-4, 200, So.)
RB Michael Pierre (5-10, 205, Sr.)
FB Kennard Swanson (6-0, 248, Fr.)
LT Darrell Williams (6-5, 303, Sr.)
LG Thor Jozwiak (6-4, 332, Jr.)
C Austin Reiter (6-3, 286, Sr.)
RG Quinterrius Eatmon (6-6, 319, Sr.)
RT Brynjar Gudmundsson (6-4, 315, Jr.)
WR Andre Davis (6-1, 207, Sr.)
WR Sean Price (6-3, 249, Jr.)
WR Deonte Welch (6-0, 213, Sr.)

Defense
DE Eric Lee (6-3, 257, Jr.)
DT Todd Chandler (6-0, 317, Jr.)
DT Derrick Calloway (6-2, 296, So.)
DE Elkino Watson (6-2, 289, Sr.)
SLB Reshard Cliett (6-2, 220, Sr.)
MLB Tashon Whitehurst (6-3, 215, Jr.)
WLB Nigel Harris (6-0, 215, So.)
CB Johnny Ward (6-0, 173, So.)
CB Torrel Saffold (5-11, 173, Sr.)
FS Jamie Byrd (5-11, 183, Jr.)
SS Nate Godwin (5-10, 196, So.)

Specialists
K Marvin Kloss (6-0, 196, Sr.)
P Mattias Ciabatti (6-0, 188, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

10 MEMPHIS TIGERS

Paxton Lynch

Finding the end zone–on the ground or through the air–has been problematic for Memphis in recent years.

The Tigers scored more than 21 points only three times in 2013, a figure that needs to improve for the program to capture its first winning season since 2007.

Memphis does return nine offensive starters, which will provide an experience boost. Quarterback Paxton Lynch started all 12 games as a freshman last season. He showed some spark, with a personal-best 279 yards against Fiesta Bowl champion UCF and a key touchdown pass and run in the fourth quarter of a 24-17 loss at nationally ranked Louisville.

Top wide receivers Joe Craig (37 catches, 338 yards), Sam Craft (31, 337), Keiwone Malone (25, 311), Tevin Jones (25, 292) and Mose Frazier (18, 296) return. Running back Brandon Hayes was awarded a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA after rushing for 860 yards and five scores in 2013.

The defense will be the team's strength. It ranked 39th in total defense last season (370.7 yards allowed per game). End Martin Ifedi is coming off an all-conference campaign, and cornerback Bobby McCain returns after leading the country in interceptions per game.

Placekicker Jake Elliott may be the Tigers' top weapon. He connected on 16 of 18 field goal attempts, including a 56-yarder.

BOTTOM LINE: It's important for the Tigers to continue to turn the corner in coach Justin Fuente's third season. The program only has a dozen victories over the past five years, but seven of those have come over the past two seasons. Building consistency on offense will be essential.

LYNCH: MARK HUMPHREY / AP

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Austin Peay	
S.6	@ UCLA	
S.20	Middle Tennessee State	15-17
S.27	@ OLE MISS	
O.4	@ CINCINNATI	21-34
O.11	Houston	15-25
O.25	@ SMU	29-34
O.31	Tulsa	
N.7	@ TEMPLE	21-41
N.15	@ TULANE	
N.22	South Florida	23-10
N.29	Connecticut	10-45

COACH
Justin Fuente
Third year (7-17)
Career record: 7-17

Offensive coordinator: Darrell Dickey (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Barry Odom (third year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 3-9
Stadium: Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium (61,000)
Tickets: 888-867-UofM
Site: Memphis
Website: gotigersgo.com
Twitter: @TigersAthletics

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Paxton Lynch (6-7, 225, So.)
RB Brandon Hayes (5-8, 198, Sr.)
LT Taylor Fallin (6-6, 330, Jr.)
LG Tyler Uselton (6-3, 330, Jr.)
C Micah Simmons (6-3, 285, Jr.)
RG Sam Thomas (6-2, 285, So.)
RT Al Bond (6-4, 300, Sr.)
TE Alan Cross (6-1, 245, Jr.)
WR Keiwone Malone (5-11, 155, Sr.)
WR Sam Craft (6-0, 205, So.)
WR Tevin Jones (6-2, 215, Jr.)

Defense
DE Ricky Hunter (6-3, 275, Jr.)
DT Terry Redden (6-2, 270, Sr.)
DE Martin Ifedi (6-3, 265, Sr.)
OLB Jackson Dillon (6-6, 230, So.)
ILB Tank Jakes (5-11, 225, Sr.)
ILB Charles Harris (6-2, 243, Sr.)
OLB Ryan Coleman (6-3, 225, Sr.)
CB Andrew Gaines (5-11, 185, Sr.)
CB Bobby McCain (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS Reggis Ball (5-11, 200, Jr.)
SS Fritz Etienne (6-2, 210, Sr.)

Specialists
K Jake Elliott (5-10, 160, So.)
P Spencer Smith (6-1, 185, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

11 TEMPLE OWLS

"Finish" will be Temple's motto this fall.

The Owls were oh-so-close to victories under first-year coach Matt Rhule last season. In its final five games, the team was tied or held the lead at the beginning of the fourth quarter. It won just one of those games.

The margin of error was razor-thin during the two-win season but the good news was a victory over Memphis in the regular-season finale.

Continued improvement on offense will be essential for more victories in 2014. The Owls averaged 399 yards per game in Rhule's debut season as head coach, which was the second-best total in school history.

Quarterback P.J. Walker, who started the final seven games, set freshman records after throwing for 2,084 yards and 20 touchdowns. He's also an elusive runner who rushed for 332 yards and three scores.

Walker's weapons will include running back Kenneth Harper, one of only eight seniors on the roster. Harper rushed for 613 yards and nine touchdowns, which ranked second in the AAC for rushing scores. Jalen Fitzpatrick is the top returning wide receiver (38 catches, 429 yards, 3 TDs).

The defense returns seven starters and will be anchored by linebacker Tyler Matakevich, who led the nation in solo tackles (105) last season. The defensive line will be strong, with six players with starting experience returning. The secondary is young. Cornerback Anthony Robey has 28 starts, but the rest of the defensive backfield (19 players) has 13 starts combined.

BOTTOM LINE: The Owls were on the cusp of getting victories last year and gaining confidence early would help the young team. Outscoring teams may be the route to success, with the Temple defense still having work left to improve on last year's performance, which ranked 108th nationally.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	@ VANDERBILT	
S.6	Navy	
S.20	Delaware State	
S.27	@ CONNECTICUT	21-28
O.11	Tulsa	
O.17	@ HOUSTON	13-22
O.25	@ UCF	36-39
N.1	East Carolina	
N.7	Memphis	41-21
N.15	@ PENN STATE	
N.29	Cincinnati	20-38
D.6	@ TULANE	

COACH
Matt Rhule
Second year (2-10)
Career record: 2-10

Offensive coordinator: Marcus Satterfield (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Phil Snow (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 2-10
Stadium: Lincoln Financial Field (68,532)
Tickets: 215-204-8499
Site: Philadelphia
Website: owlsports.com
Twitter: @Temple_FB

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB P.J. Walker (6-1, 200, So.)
RB Kenneth Harper (6-0, 225, Sr.)
LT Leon Johnson (6-6, 300, So.)
LG Brendan McGowan (6-4, 300, So.)
C Kyle Friend (6-2, 305, Jr.)
RG Jacob Quinn (6-5, 295, Jr.)
RT Eric Lofton (6-5, 300, Jr.)
TE Wanemi Omuso (6-2, 255, Sr.)
WR Romond Deloatch (6-4, 225, So.)
WR Jalen Fitzpatrick (5-11, 180, Sr.)
WR Khalif Herbin (5-7, 170, So.)

Defense
DE Matt Ioannidis (6-4, 285, Jr.)
DT Averee Robinson (6-1, 285, So.)
DT Sharif Finch (6-4, 218, So.)
DE Bryan Osei (6-2, 250, So.)
WLB Tyler Matakevich (6-1, 230, Jr.)
MLB Nate D. Smith (6-0, 230, Jr.)
SLB Stephaun Marshall (5-11, 190, So.)
CB Tavon Young (5-10, 174, Jr.)
CB Anthony Robey (5-10, 190, Sr.)
FS Alex Wells (6-0, 202, Jr.)
SS Jihaad Pretlow (5-11, 190, So.)

Specialists
K Jim Cooper (6-1, 195, So.)
P Tyler Mayes (6-2, 215, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

PROJECTED FINISH

ATLANTIC

1. **FLORIDA STATE** — Bowl Projection: Sugar Bowl (Playoff Semifinal)
2. **CLEMSON** — Bowl Projection: Belk Bowl
3. **LOUISVILLE** — Bowl Projection: Music City Bowl
4. **BOSTON COLLEGE** — Bowl Projection: Military Bowl
5. **SYRACUSE** — Bowl Projection: Detroit Bowl
6. **N.C. STATE**
7. **WAKE FOREST**

COASTAL

1. **NORTH CAROLINA** — Bowl Projection: Russell Athletic Bowl
2. **MIAMI** — Bowl Projection: Gator Bowl
3. **DUKE** — Bowl Projection: Independence Bowl
4. **VIRGINIA TECH** — Bowl Projection: Pinstripe Bowl
5. **GEORGIA TECH** — Bowl Projection: Sun Bowl
6. **PITTSBURGH**
7. **VIRGINIA**

Jameis Winston

Is hoops-crazy ACC finally gaining respect on gridiron?

BY CHRIS LANG | *Lynchburg (Va.) News & Advance (Coastal)*
PATRICK STEVENS | *Syracuse (N.Y.) Post-Standard (Atlantic)*

For the first time in almost a decade, the ACC doesn't have The Question hovering over it at the start of a football season.

Since the league expanded in 2004, growing from nine to 11 (and eventually to 12 and then 14), it was an annual rite to wonder just when the ACC would do something of true national significance. And while nonconference records (usually unflattering against top-level opposition) and bowl records would be cited as evidence, the league's real problem was the absence of a national title contender.

That problem vanished last season when Florida State went unbeaten to earn the crystal football, its (and the ACC's) first national championship since 1999. Clemson did its part, too, losing only to Florida State and South Carolina and validating its season (as much as anyone can validate matters in a game that doesn't decide the national title) with an Orange Bowl defeat of Ohio State.

What 2013 illustrated—besides the fact Florida State has fully re-emerged from a nearly decade-long malaise—is that the perception of the ACC won't be questioned nearly as much when its flagship programs are thriving. That means when Clemson and Florida State (as well as Miami and Virginia Tech) are doing well, the conference will do well in the court of public opinion.

With that in mind, expect a modest step back this fall. Florida State still has Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston and oodles of NFL prospects, but it still exported a lot to the pros after last season. Clemson's pitch-and-catch combo of quarterback Tajh Boyd and wide receiver Sammy Watkins has exited Death Valley, but the Tigers remain talented. Miami and Virginia Tech both have serious quarterback issues.

The conference is bolstered by the addition of Louisville, which represents a substantial football upgrade over Big Ten-bound Maryland. Defending Coastal Division champion Duke is poised to stick around as a contender, and North Carolina appears to be on the rise as well.

Eleven conference teams landed bowl bids last season. The programs capable of winning seven or eight games represent depth behind an improved top tier now rather than a reason to ask about the league's relevance anymore.

TRENDING

Three stories to watch

1 **A Duke redux? The Blue Devils won the Coastal Division title last season. With a favorable schedule, David Cutcliffe's bunch might just win 10 games again this fall.**

RECRUITING RANKINGS

by JC Shurburtt, 247Sports

247 COMPOSITE

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL PLAYERS	★★★★★ 5-STAR RECRUITS	★★★★ 4-STAR RECRUITS	★★★ 3-STAR RECRUITS	POINTS
1	Florida State	29	2	14	12	286.77
2	Miami	27	1	7	18	255.80
3	Clemson	20	0	10	10	240.66
4	Virginia Tech	27	0	4	23	216.97
5	North Carolina	22	0	3	19	215.95
6	Virginia	17	2	2	11	205.30
7	N.C. State	30	0	2	26	200.47
8	Pittsburgh	23	0	2	18	184.56
9	Louisville	23	0	0	20	183.12
10	Syracuse	24	0	1	20	176.80
11	Boston College	28	0	0	22	175.46
12	Georgia Tech	21	0	0	20	172.20
13	Duke	18	0	0	18	166.42
14	Wake Forest	25	0	0	22	163.43

ALL-ACC

Offense

- **QB** Jameis Winston, So., Florida State
- **RB** Kevin Parks, Sr., Virginia
- **RB** Duke Johnson, Jr., Miami
- **OT** Sean Hickey, Sr., Syracuse
- **OG** Tre' Jackson, Sr., Florida State
- **C** Anthony Gallik, Sr., Boston College
- **OG** Shaquille Mason, Sr., Georgia Tech
- **OT** Cameron Erving, Sr., Florida State
- **TE** Nick O'Leary, Sr., Florida State
- **WR** Jamison Crowder, Sr., Duke
- **WR** DeVante Parker, Sr., Louisville

Defense

- **DE** Vic Beasley, Sr., Clemson
- **DL** Grady Jarrett, Sr., Clemson
- **DL** Luther Maddy, Sr., Virginia Tech
- **DE** Mario Edwards, Jr., Florida State
- **LB** Kelby Brown, Sr., Duke
- **LB** Denzel Perryman, Sr., Miami
- **LB** Stephone Anthony, Sr., Clemson
- **DB** Charles Gaines, Jr., Louisville
- **DB** Kendall Fuller, So., Virginia Tech
- **DB** Anthony Harris, Sr., Virginia
- **DB** Ronald Darby, Jr., Florida State

Specialists

- **K** Roberto Aguayo, So., Florida State
- **P** A.J. Hughes, Jr., Virginia Tech

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The Heisman Trophy winner returns and, while he doesn't have the same cast of characters around him, he could still keep the Seminoles in the national title picture again.

Vic Beasley

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The senior end led the ACC in sacks last season and will anchor a defense that will be asked to do a little more as the Tigers break in several new faces on offense.

ASCENDING

NORTH CAROLINA

The Tar Heels won six of their last seven games in 2013, including a blowout of Cincinnati in the Belk Bowl. All of a sudden, Larry Fedora's crew is the trendy pick to win the Coastal Division.

DESCENDING

VIRGINIA TECH

The Hokies are no longer cranking out 10-win seasons, and now face a QB question after the graduation of three-year starter Logan Thomas. Tech may struggle to stay in the upper half of Coastal.

2 Can FSU net consecutive national titles? On the national level, how the Seminoles fare as defending champions is the most noteworthy ACC-related subplot.

3 Louisville enters the fray. The Cardinals take Maryland's place in the ACC, and immediately face a schedule that includes Clemson, Florida State and Miami.

RATING THE ACC

FASTEST RECEIVER
Kermit Whitfield, Florida State
Runs the 100 meters in 10.28 seconds and led the nation in kick-return average as a freshman.

BEST HANDS
Jamison Crowder, WR, Duke
Caught an ACC-high 108 passes in 14 games as a junior.

BEST PASSING QB
Jameis Winston, Florida State
The Heisman Trophy winner led ACC in passing efficiency, yards per completion, passing yards and passing TDs.

BEST RUNNING QB
Marquise Williams, North Carolina
After replacing injured starter Bryn Renner, Williams ended last season as the Tar Heels' leading rusher at 536 yards.

MOST ELUSIVE RB
T.J. Logan, North Carolina
The 5-10 true freshman got better as 2013 wore on, and proved particularly slippery against ODU, rushing 14 times for 137 yards with four TDs, including a 99-yard kick return.

BEST INSTINCTS
Duke Johnson, RB, Miami
No one is better in the conference at finding a hole and ripping through than this speedy Hurricane.

BEST ATHLETE
Jameis Winston, QB, Florida State
Not only is Winston the best quarterback in the league, he's also the closer for FSU's baseball team.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Jameis Winston, QB, Florida State
Not to sound like a broken record, but the dude did throw a TD pass with 13 seconds left to secure FSU a national title.

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Jameis Winston, QB, Florida State
Will be a top-three pick whenever he chooses to leave.

TOP IMPACT FROSH
Ermon Lane, WR, Florida State
One of the top receiver prospects in the country will have an opportunity to step in and play right away.

HARDEST HITTER
Denzel Perryman, LB, Miami
He posted 108 tackles as a junior and is a force in the middle for the Hurricanes.

BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER
Ryan Janvion, S, Wake Forest
As a freshman safety from a small Christian school in Florida, Janvion burst onto the scene in 2013 with 95 tackles.

BEST INTERVIEW
Anthony Harris, S, Virginia
Candid and thoughtful even though his team was going through one of its roughest seasons in years in 2013.

BEST COACH AS STRATEGIST
David Cutcliffe, Duke
No one in the ACC does more with less than Cutcliffe.

BEST COACH AS RECRUITER
Jimbo Fisher, Florida State
Fisher has churned out multiple first-round NFL draft picks.

HOTTEST SEAT
Mike London, Virginia
Entering the fifth year of a seven-year deal, he's coming off a winless ACC season and has yet to beat rival Virginia Tech.

BEST VENUE
Memorial Stadium, Clemson
The run down the hill to the field from Howard's Rock is something to behold.

PLAYER MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (OFF THE FIELD)
Brandon Facyson, CB, Virginia Tech
Emerged on scene with five picks as a true frosh. His sights set on being a heart surgeon if football doesn't work out.

WINSTON: CHRIS O'MEARA / AP; BEASLEY: GEOFF BURKE / USA TODAY SPORTS

FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

ACC ATLANTIC

1

Jameis Winston

2014 SN 3 NATIONAL RANK

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Oklahoma State*	
S.6	Citadel	
S.20	Clemson	51-14
S.27	@ N.C. STATE	49-17
O.4	Wake Forest	59-3
O.11	@ SYRACUSE	59-3
O.18	Notre Dame	
O.30	@ LOUISVILLE	
N.8	Virginia	
N.15	@ MIAMI (FL)	41-14
N.22	Boston College	48-34
N.29	Florida	37-7

* At Arlington, TX

COACH

Jimbo Fisher
Fifth year (45-10)
Career record: 45-10

Offensive coordinators:
Lawrence Dawsey (first year)
Randy Sanders (first year)
Defensive coordinator:
Charles Kelly (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 14-0
(Beat Auburn in the BCS National Championship, 34-31)
Stadium: Doak Campbell Stadium (82,300)
Tickets: 888-378-6653
Site: Tallahassee, Fla.
Website: seminoles.com
Twitter: @FSU_Football

Florida State's perfect 2013 season was pretty much that–perfect.

It didn't play a game decided by less than 14 points until the national championship against Auburn. It averaged 51.6 points per game, an ACC record. Even its kicker missed only one field goal all season and set an ACC scoring record.

And, of course, there was Jameis Winston, the quarterback who orchestrated the offense. He threw for 40 touchdowns and won the Heisman Trophy without taking a blemish on the field.

Seasons rarely go so smoothly–the investigation into a sexual-assault accusation against Winston that did not produce any formal charges aside–and such dominance is difficult to replicate. That's the task in front of this year's Seminoles.

Another year of Winston at quarterback will surely help. There is no contrived quarterback competition this season, and Florida State won't wait until well into August to name its starter this year. Winston's the guy and, just like last fall, the Seminoles will go as far the redshirt sophomore can take them.

Of immense help is the return of four senior starters on the offensive line. There is no way to underrate the value of 113 combined career starts of the projected starting five, a group that includes returning first-team All-ACC picks Cameron Erving and Tre' Jackson. Florida State elevates veteran Austin Barron to the starting center slot, giving the Seminoles a line with four seniors and a junior.

This would be crucial even if the Seminoles were completely wiped out at the skill positions. They aren't. Yes, two of the top three tailbacks are gone, but Karlos Williams (who moved over from safety early last season) averaged 8.02 yards on 91 carries as a reserve. Finding a rusher is not a problem.

While the Seminoles' receiving corps would have been especially menacing had Kelvin Benjamin not turned pro, it still brings back All-ACC selection Rashad Greene, who needs just 40 receptions to become Florida State's career leader in the category. Look for tight end Nick O'Leary to maintain a strong presence in the passing game as well.

Florida State's defense should also remain imposing despite some high-profile losses. The departures of nose guard Timmy Jernigan and cornerback Lamarcus Joyner sting, but so does coordinator Jeremy Pruitt's decision to leave for Georgia after just one season.

Coach Jimbo Fisher elevated linebackers coach Charles Kelly to replace Pruitt, so there is continuity. There is also plenty of talent, particularly up front. One of Fisher's greatest priorities since taking over the Seminoles after the 2009 season was constructing dominant defensive lines. End Mario Edwards Jr. could emerge as Florida State's latest star

Difference-maker

Jameis Winston, QB

The nation is familiar with the Heisman Trophy winner's skill and on-field leadership. This year he will showcase his ability to adjust, as he lost 3,238 yards and 36 touchdowns worth of weaponry to the NFL.

WINSTON: BOB LEVERONE / AP

up front, and converted linebacker Ro'Derrick Hoskins impressed during the spring.

On the inside, Eddie Goldman and Nile Lawrence-Stample should be important pieces, with Lawrence-Stample likely to occupy Jernigan's disruptive role from a season ago.

The greatest question on defense is at linebacker, where junior Terrance Smith is the lone starter returning. Expect the likes of Ukeme Eligwe, E.J. Levenberry, Reggie Northrup and Matthew Thomas to all see significantly expanded roles.

Cornerbacks Ronald Darby and P.J. Williams are back, as is sophomore safety Jalen Ramsey. The versatile Nate Andrews is also in contention for a starting spot in a unit that should again be a strength for the Seminoles.

Both specialists are back as well, with kicker Roberto Aguayo coming off a season during which he scored 157 points and won the Lou Groza Award as a freshman. Punter Cason Beatty averaged 41.1 yards per attempt but was needed just 42 times in 14 games.

Florida State also has one of the country's best kickoff returners. Kermit Whitfield averaged an ACC-record 36.4 yards per runback and scored two touchdowns while handling a majority of the Seminoles' returns.

BOTTOM LINE

How do elite programs remain at or near the top annually? By collecting as much talent as possible in every recruiting class and hoping player development continues to flourish. It's not particularly easy to pull off, but Fisher has Florida State well-positioned for years to come.

That includes this season, and the return of Winston, Greene, O'Leary and four starters on the offensive line will make it easier to offset the loss of some strong skill-position players.

If the defense can effectively offset the loss of five starters while playing for another new coordinator, Florida State could successfully defend its national title. At worst, this is a 10-win team capable of winning another ACC championship.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Fresh off winning the national championship, the Seminoles mopped up down the stretch run of recruiting, landing the top class in the ACC and the No. 4 class nationally. Cook and Lane were both at one time committed to Florida before landing in Tallahassee. Cook, one of the most explosive backs in the country, has already enrolled at FSU. You will hear his name soon. This Seminoles linebacker class, which featured in-state four-star players Kain Daub, Delvin Purifoy and Jacob Pugh, is collectively one of the better incoming groups in the country. Coach Jimbo Fisher and staff can certainly evaluate quarterback talent and J.J. Cosentino of Central Catholic in Pittsburgh was one they set their sites on early. The 6-4, 223-pounder has a very strong arm.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Dalvin Cook, RB ★★★★★
2. Ermon Lane, WR ★★★★★
3. Travis Rudolph, WR ★★★★

WILLIAMS: JOHN RAOUX / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Jameis Winston	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	14	184.8	257-384-10	66.9	4057	40	289.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Karlos Williams	14	91	730	8.0	11	52.1

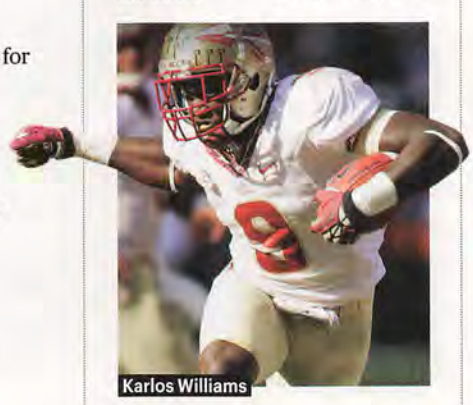
RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Rashad Greene	14	76	1128	14.8	9	80.6

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Terrance Smith	14	34	25	59

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Mario Edwards Jr.	12	3.5	37

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Nate Andrews	4	91	22.8	1

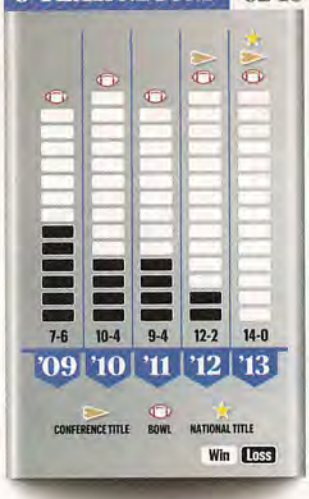

Karlos Williams

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	FSU	OPP
SCORING	723	170
Points Per Game	51.6	12.1
FIRST DOWNS	357	232
Rushing	139	101
Passing	194	110
Penalty	24	21
RUSHING YARDAGE	2844	1747
Yards gained rushing	3217	2144
Yards lost rushing	373	397
Rushing Attempts	505	536
Average Per Rush	5.6	3.3
Average Per Game	203.1	124.8
TDs Rushing	42	7
PASSING YARDAGE	4423	2193
Comp-Att-Int	288-442-13	222-427-26
Average Per Pass	10.0	5.1
Average Per Catch	15.4	9.9
Average Per Game	315.9	156.6
TDs Passing	42	14
TOTAL OFFENSE	7267	3940
Total Plays	947	963
Average Per Play	7.7	4.1
Average Per Game	519.1	281.4
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-873	70-1301
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	34-340	14-237
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	26-529	13-72
KICK RETURN AVG.	28.2	18.6
PUNT RETURN AVG.	10.0	16.9
INT RETURN AVG.	20.3	5.5
FUMBLES-LOST	13-5	17-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	79-694	71-643
Average Per Game	49.6	45.9
PUNTS-YARDS	42-1725	96-4109
Average Per Punt	41.1	42.8
Net punt average	34.5	38.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:24	30:36
3RD-DOWN CONV.	82/157	68/212
3rd-Down Pct.	52%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	3/4	11/22
4th-Down Pct.	75%	50%
SACKS BY-YARDS	35-263	33-233
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	94	21
FG-ATTEMPTS	21-22	8-13
ATTENDANCE	527947	310376
Games/Avg Per Game	7/75421	5/62075
Neutral Site Games		2/80951

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Florida State	165	214	203	141	0	723
Opponent	42	41	29	58	0	170

5-YEAR RECORD 52-16



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Jameis Winston (6-4, 235, So.)
	Sean Maguire (6-3, 220, So.)
RB	Karlos Williams (6-1, 219, Sr.)
	Mario Pender (5-10, 194, So.)
LT	Cameron Erving (6-6, 302, Sr.)
	Wilson Bell (6-4, 306, So.)
LG	Josue Matias (6-6, 331, Jr.)
	Kareem Are (6-6, 335, Jr.)
C	Austin Barron (6-3, 292, Sr.)
	Ryan Hoefield (6-3, 285, Fr.)
RG	Tre' Jackson (6-4, 339, Sr.)
	Ruben Carter (6-4, 299, Jr.)
RT	Bobby Hart (6-4, 318, Sr.)
	Chad Mavety (6-5, 320, Jr.)
TE	Nick O'Leary (6-3, 244, Sr.)
	Kevin Haplea (6-4, 246, Sr.)
WR	Rashad Greene (6-0, 178, Sr.)
	Kermit Whitfield (5-7, 184, So.)
WR	Christian Green (6-3, 207, Sr.)
	Jarred Haggins (6-0, 202, Sr.)
WR	Isaiah Jones (6-4, 193, So.)
	Jesus Wilson (5-9, 177, Fr.)

Defense

DE	Mario Edwards Jr. (6-3, 294, Jr.)
	DeMarcus Walker (6-3, 273, So.)
DT	Eddie Goldman (6-4, 314, Jr.)
	Giorgio Newberry (6-6, 280, Jr.)
DT	Nile Lawrence-Stample (6-1, 319, Jr.)
	Keith Bryant (6-2, 308, Fr.)
DE	Chris Casher (6-4, 243, So.)
	Ro'Derrick Hoskins (6-2, 235, Fr.)
LB	Ukeme Eligwe (6-2, 233, So.)
	Reggie Northrup (6-1, 217, Jr.)
LB	Terrance Smith (6-4, 228, Jr.)
	E.J. Levenberry (6-3, 237, So.)
LB	Matthew Thomas (6-3, 224, Fr.)
	Reggie Northrup (6-1, 217, Jr.)
CB	Ronald Darby (5-11, 188, Jr.)
	Marquez White (6-0, 168, So.)
CB	P.J. Williams (6-0, 196, Jr.)
	Nick Waisome (5-10, 182, Sr.)
S	Jalen Ramsey (6-1, 198, So.)
	Keelin Smith (6-3, 191, Jr.)
S	Nate Andrews (5-11, 209, So.)
	Trey Marshall (6-0, 192, Fr.)

Specialists

K	Roberto Aguayo (6-1, 209, So.)
P	Cason Beatty (6-3, 224, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

CLEMSON TIGERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
ACC ATLANTIC
2

Vic Beasley

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ GEORGIA	38-35
S.6	South Carolina State	52-13
S.20	@ FLORIDA STATE	14-51
S.27	North Carolina	
O.4	North Carolina State	26-14
O.11	Louisville	
O.18	@ BOSTON COLLEGE	24-14
O.25	Syracuse	49-14
N.6	@ WAKE FOREST	56-7
N.15	@ GEORGIA TECH	55-31
N.22	Georgia State	
N.29	South Carolina	17-31

COACH
Dabo Swinney
Seventh year (51-23)
Career record: 51-23

Offensive coordinator: Chad Morris (fourth year)
Defensive coordinator: Brent Venables (third year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 11-2
(Beat Ohio State in the Orange Bowl, 40-35)
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (81,500)
Tickets: 864-656-2118
Site: Clemson, S.C.
Website: clemsontigers.com
Twitter: @ClemsonTigers

It was a fun stretch for Clemson, which rolled up double-digit victories for three consecutive years while the likes of quarterback Tajh Boyd and wide receiver Sammy Watkins produced imposing statistics in coordinator Chad Morris' offense.

Boyd and Watkins are gone to the NFL now, though it's not as if Clemson hasn't handled high-profile departures in the past. Tailback Andre Ellington and wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins both played large roles in Clemson's re-emergence as a program capable of contending for top-10 finishes annually and both exited Death Valley after the 2012 season. All Clemson did was go 11-2 without them.

Nonetheless, Boyd and Watkins were, for different reasons, cornerstones for the Tigers' football renaissance under coach Dabo Swinney. Boyd was part of Swinney's first recruiting class and set an ACC record for career touchdown passes (107). Watkins was a high-profile recruit who instantly put a jolt in the Tigers' offense.

Replacing both will not be easy, and Clemson's fortunes this fall might well be dependent upon who steps in for those two.

The quarterback situation sorted itself out to a considerable degree in the offseason. Freshman Deshaun Watson, an early enrollee, suffered a broken collarbone toward the end of spring practice. Then redshirt sophomore Chad Kelly was benched for an on-field outburst at coaches during the spring game; two days later, he was dismissed from the team for conduct detrimental to the program.

That leaves senior Cole Stoudt as the unquestioned favorite to begin the season as the Tigers' starter. Stoudt threw for 415 yards and five touchdowns as Boyd's backup last season, and he has only one interception in 98 passes over the last two years.

Filling in Watkins' production will be a bit more piecemeal. Senior Adam Humphries will likely play a steady role, and the Tigers hope Charone Peake (who is coming off an injury-shortened season) and Mike Williams can emerge as consistent targets. If not, Clemson will turn to freshmen.

Zac Brooks and D.J. Howard figure to have the first crack at replacing tailback Roderick McDowell. More importantly, four of the top seven offensive linemen from last season return, which ensures a little continuity up front to help the new starters at the skill positions.

An onus will also be on a defense that gave

Difference-maker
Vic Beasley, DE

It's hard to determine which is stronger—Beasley's biceps or his brain? The senior turned down early NFL entry because he was close to completing his sociology degree. He also thought he could get better on the field, which is scary considering he exploded past blockers constantly and wrapped his biceps around 13 quarterbacks for sacks last year. He leads a strong front seven for the Tigers, who will rely on their defense early as playmakers must be found on offense.

BEASLEY: LEE COLEMAN / ICON SMI

up at least 30 points to all four ranked teams it faced. Some of that was a byproduct of being on the field for more possessions thanks to Clemson's uptempo offense, but the Tigers would like to improve on a rush defense that yielded 155.7 yards a game last season.

The front four will be a strength, in part because defensive end Vic Beasley opted to remain in school for his final year of eligibility. But end Corey Crawford and tackles Grady Jarrett and DeShawn Williams played regularly last season, and all four projected starters on the line are seniors.

Clemson also brings back its leading tackler, senior Stephone Anthony, to anchor the linebacking corps. There are greater questions in the secondary, where safety Robert Smith is the only regular starter who returns this fall. Jayron Kearse, who finished sixth on the team in tackles as a freshman, started the last two games and is poised to be an even greater part of things in his second season as the other safety.

Longtime kicker Chandler Catanzaro, who made 13 of 14 field goals last season, departs. Punter Bradley Pinion, who dropped 24 of his 56 punts inside the 20 without a touchback, will be back. Humphries is again expected to handle the punt-return duties, while Watkins' exit opens up kickoff returns.

BOTTOM LINE

One of the best measures of how well a high-level program is constructed is the dip it takes after losing an unusually large amount of talent. The best usually don't stray too far from nine or 10 victories, while lesser entities tend to have much larger swings.

The latter was the fate for Clemson for nearly two decades: Up one year, down the next. Swinney continues to stack quality recruiting classes on top of each other, and this season will reveal a great deal about the Tigers' underpinnings.

Despite the absence of a victory over South Carolina since 2008 (a particular sticking point in Death Valley), Clemson has rattled off 32 victories and a 20-4 conference mark over the last three seasons. There are enough questions to temper expectations a little, but the Tigers are still the team most likely to dethrone Florida State atop the ACC.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

The Tigers, who finished with the No. 18 class nationally, got a slew of potential impact receivers, three of whom (Scott, Demarre Kitt and Kyrin Priester) enrolled early. Watson also arrived in January. He is Georgia's career prep passing leader and was one of the most coveted quarterback prospects in the 2014 class. Clemson has some size coming in at linebacker in 6-4, 225-pounders Chris Register (early enrollee) and Richard Yeargin III, who flipped from Notre Dame late. Adam Choice, the cousin of NFL running back Tashard Choice, is a compact, 5-9, 200-pound rusher with sub-4.5 second speed who could see carries right away.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Deshaun Watson, QB ★★★★
2. Artavis Scott, WR ★★★★
3. Trevion Thompson, WR ★★★★

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Cole Stoudt	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	8	166.7	47-59-0	79.7	415	5	

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Zac Brooks	10	48	246	5.1	2	24.6

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Adam Humphries	13	41	483	11.8	2	37.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Stephone Anthony	13	75	56	131

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Vic Beasley	13	13.0	98

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Jayron Kearse	4	62	15.5	0

Zac Brooks

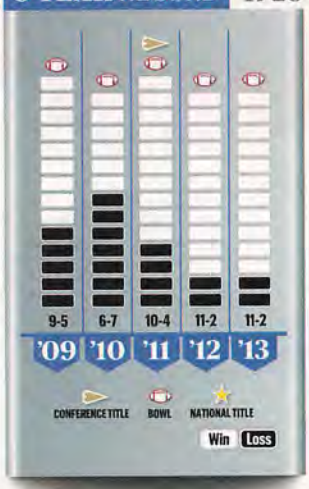
BROOKS: KARL B DEBLAKER / AP

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	CLEM	OPP
SCORING	522	288
Points Per Game	40.2	22.2
FIRST DOWNS	327	234
Rushing	130	99
Passing	182	111
Penalty	15	24
RUSHING YARDAGE	2270	2024
Yards gained rushing	2613	2457
Yards lost rushing	343	433
Rushing Attempts	544	543
Average Per Rush	4.2	3.7
Average Per Game	174.6	155.7
TDs Rushing	26	22
PASSING YARDAGE	4330	2613
Comp-Att-Int	341-493-12	202-378-18
Average Per Pass	8.8	6.9
Average Per Catch	12.7	12.9
Average Per Game	333.1	201.0
TDs Passing	39	14
TOTAL OFFENSE	6600	4637
Total Plays	1037	921
Average Per Play	6.4	5.0
Average Per Game	507.7	356.7
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	29-545	48-933
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	29-242	16-87
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	18-264	12-69
KICK RETURN AVG.	18.8	19.4
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.3	5.4
INT RETURN AVG.	14.7	5.8
FUMBLES-LOST	26-12	25-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	73-650	85-684
Average Per Game	50.0	52.6
PUNTS-YARDS	60-2369	94-3976
Average Per Punt	39.5	42.3
Net punt average	38.0	39.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	27:18	32:42
3RD-DOWN CONV.	88/197	65/211
3rd-Down Pct.	45%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	15/26	14/23
4th-Down Pct.	58%	61%
SACKS BY-YARDS	38-232	35-220
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	69	37
FG-ATTEMPTS	14-16	10-12
ATTENDANCE	574333	285811
Games/Avg Per Game	7/82048	5/57162
Neutral Site Games		1/72080

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Clemson	144	158	100	120	0	522
Opponent	68	78	68	74	0	288

5-YEAR RECORD 47-20



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Cole Stoudt (6-4, 210, Sr.)
	Deshaun Watson (6-3, 188, Fr.)
RB	Zac Brooks (6-1, 190, Jr.)
	D.J. Howard (6-0, 195, Sr.)
LT	Isaiah Battle (6-7, 275, Jr.)
	Maverick Morris (6-4, 300, Fr.)
LG	David Beasley (6-4, 320, Sr.)
	Eric Mac Lain (6-4, 295, Jr.)
C	Ryan Norton (6-3, 280, Jr.)
	Jay Guillermo (6-3, 315, So.)
RG	Kalon Davis (6-5, 340, Sr.)
	Reid Webster (6-3, 300, Sr.)
RT	Shaq Anthony (6-4, 280, Jr.)
	Joe Gore (6-5, 300, Jr.)
TE	Stanton Seckinger (6-4, 230, Jr.)
	Jordan Leggett (6-5, 240, So.)
WR	Adam Humphries (5-11, 190, Sr.)
	Artavis Scott (5-11, 180, Fr.)
WR	Charone Peake (6-2, 205, Jr.)
	Kyrin Priester (6-2, 190, Fr.)
WR	Mike Williams (6-3, 205, So.)
	Demarre Kitt (6-1, 195, Fr.)

Defense

DE	Vic Beasley (6-2, 235, Sr.)
	Shaq Lawson (6-3, 270, So.)
DT	Grady Jarrett (6-1, 295, Sr.)
	D.J. Reader (6-2, 325, Jr.)
DT	DeShawn Williams (6-1, 295, Sr.)
	Josh Watson (6-4, 290, Sr.)
DE	Corey Crawford (6-5, 270, Sr.)
	Tavaris Barnes (6-4, 275, Sr.)
SLB	Travis Blanks (6-0, 200, Jr.)
	T.J. Burrell (5-11, 215, So.)
MLB	Stephone Anthony (6-2, 245, Sr.)
	Ben Boulware (5-11, 230, So.)
WLB	Tony Steward (6-1, 230, Sr.)
	Kellen Jones (6-1, 225, Jr.)
CB	Martin Jenkins (5-9, 185, Sr.)
	Garry Peters (6-0, 185, Sr.)
CB	Mackensie Alexander (5-11, 185, Fr.)
	Marcus Edmond (5-11, 170, Fr.)
S	Robert Smith (5-11, 210, Sr.)
	Korrin Wiggins (5-11, 190, So.)
S	Jayron Kearse (6-4, 205, So.)
	Jadar Johnson (6-1, 195, So.)

Specialists

K	Ammon Lakip (5-10, 200, Jr.)
P	Bradley Pinion (6-6, 230, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

ACC ATLANTIC

3

DeVante Parker

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
S.1	Miami (FL)	36-9
S.6	Murray State	
S.13	@ VIRGINIA	
S.20	@ FLORIDA INTL.	72-0
S.27	Wake Forest	
O.3	@ SYRACUSE	
O.11	@ CLEMSON	
O.18	North Carolina State	
O.30	Florida State	
N.8	@ BOSTON COLLEGE	
N.22	@ NOTRE DAME	
N.29	Kentucky	27-13

COACH

Bobby Petrino
Fifth year (41-9)
Career record: 83-30

Offensive coordinator: Garrick McGee (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Todd Grantham (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 12-1
(Beat Miami in the Russell Athletic Bowl, 36-9)
Stadium: Papa John's Cardinal Stadium (55,000)
Tickets: 502-852-5151
Site: Louisville, Ky.
Website: gocards.com
Twitter: @UofLFootball

Louisville has a new home. Bobby Petrino is back at one of his old homes.

Together, they hope to maintain the level of success the Cardinals have come to enjoy over much of the last decade.

Louisville takes residence in the ACC, capping a meteoric rise from Conference USA to the Big East (and then its renamed remnants, the American Athletic Conference) and now to one of the five leagues with superior access to the new playoff structure. It's a move that helps many of the Cardinals' programs, but not many will benefit as much as football.

On its own, Petrino's return to a power-conference gig two years after a successful stint at Arkansas ended when a motorcycle accident uncorked a series of events that led to his firing for lying to his athletic director would be fascinating enough.

After all, there are two certainties in Petrino's career: He will maximize what he has, and he will never stay in one place too long. Indeed, in January, Louisville hired him away from Western Kentucky, where he spent one season.

But Petrino has plenty of history with the Cardinals, who he coached to a 41-9 record over four years (2003-06) before bolting to the Atlanta Falcons less than a week after leading Louisville to an Orange Bowl triumph.

The reality, though, is there are few coaches on the market more likely to make the most of what they inherit than Petrino, who took over for Texas-bound Charlie Strong. And those skills are exceptionally valuable this year, since the Cardinals lost the dynamic Teddy Bridgewater to the NFL Draft.

Redshirt sophomore Will Gardner is the early favorite to succeed Bridgewater, though there isn't much of a track record to gauge him on at the college level. Gardner threw only 12 passes last season, appearing in seven games, while Bridgewater tossed for 3,970 yards and 31 touchdowns.

There is some continuity elsewhere in the backfield, as the Cards' leading rusher, Dominique Brown, returns. Also back is former Auburn tailback Michael Dyer, who had just 223 yards in seven games during an injury-plagued junior season.

While Bridgewater departed, four of his top five targets from a season ago are still in the fold. The best of the bunch is probably DeVante Parker, who averaged 16.1 yards per catch and will be an excellent deep threat for Petrino to deploy. Eli Rogers (44 receptions last year) is also back, as is tight end Gerald Christian.

Difference-maker

DeVante Parker, WR

It's no mystery what Parker has meant to Louisville's offense and to former Cardinals quarterback Teddy Bridgewater. In three seasons Parker has recorded 28 touchdown receptions and more than 1,800 receiving yards. His length and athleticism allow him to jump up and snag 50/50 balls. This year, however, he will be adjusting to a new signal-caller.

PARKER: JOHN RAOUX / AP

New defensive coordinator Todd Grantham takes over a unit that graduated six senior starters. With so much turnover, there might not be a better time for the Cardinals to overhaul their defensive principles and switch from a 4-3 to a 3-4.

There are usually plenty of responsibilities for linebackers in a 3-4, and that could place a spotlight on returnees James Burgess and Lorenzo Mauldin. Burgess, a junior, ranked third on the Cards in tackles (72) last season and will likely man one of the inside positions. Mauldin, a senior, started all 13 games at defensive end and was second on the team with 9.5 sacks.

There is some stability at cornerback, where both Terell Floyd and Charles Gaines served as the primary starters in 2013. The pair combined for nine interceptions and 19 passes defended and should again play significant roles this fall. Meanwhile, there is flux at safety, where both starters need to be replaced and there is not extensive experience.

John Wallace was 20-for-24 on field goals last season and should immediately become one of the most reliable kickers in the ACC.

BOTTOM LINE

Strong did a tremendous job over his four seasons with the Cardinals, who went 23-3 over the last two years. Unlike when Petrino departed Louisville in early 2007, there is plenty in place for Strong's successor to not experience a serious dip as Louisville enters the ACC.

This will not be easy, though. The Cardinals find themselves in the same half of the ACC as Clemson and Florida State, two programs far more imposing and stocked with talent than anything Louisville has dealt with on a regular basis. While the Cards won't sink to the bottom of the Atlantic Division upon arrival, they also aren't likely to play for an ACC championship this year, either.

Bridgewater's departure means the offense won't overwhelm opponents quite so easily, but Petrino's history suggests he'll do just fine in that area. Still, establishing a new quarterback will be a priority. After an opener against Miami, there will be time to adapt before facing Clemson, Florida State and Notre Dame in the second half of the season.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Bobby Petrino and staff did a good job to salvage this Cardinals class in less than one month after former head coach Charlie Strong took off for Texas.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Reggie Bonnafon, QB ★★★
2. Michael Johnson, S ★★★
3. Sharieff Rhaheed, LB ★★★

Bonnafon is an outstanding athlete who has excellent potential as a quarterback at the college level. One of the biggest late gets was Indianapolis offensive tackle Lukayus McNeil, who had offers from a slew of programs. The 6-7, 275-pound McNeil has tremendous upside. Also, massive junior-college offensive tackle Kelby Johnson from ASA College in Brooklyn, N.Y., could be an early contributor. Louisville signed 22 prospects hailing from 14 different states and the class finished No. 9 in the ACC.

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Will Gardner	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	7	200.1	8-12-0	66.7	112	2	16.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Dominique Brown	13	163	825	5.1	8	63.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
DeVante Parker	12	55	885	16.1	12	73.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
James Burgess	13	41	31	72

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Lorenzo Mauldin	13	9.5	64

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Charles Gaines	5	106	21.2	1

Dominique Brown

BROWN: CHRIS O'MEARA / AP

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	LOU	OPP
SCORING	457	158
Points Per Game	35.2	12.2
FIRST DOWNS	304	183
Rushing	100	70
Passing	195	93
Penalty	9	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	1909	1049
Yards gained rushing	2234	1498
Yards lost rushing	325	449
Rushing Attempts	455	406
Average Per Rush	4.2	2.6
Average Per Game	146.8	80.7
TDs Rushing	18	10
PASSING YARDAGE	4082	2220
Comp-Att-Int	311-439-4	189-373-16
Average Per Pass	9.3	6.0
Average Per Catch	13.1	11.7
Average Per Game	314.0	170.8
TDs Passing	33	8
TOTAL OFFENSE	5991	3269
Total Plays	894	779
Average Per Play	6.7	4.2
Average Per Game	460.8	251.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	28-636	68-1540
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	27-206	13-15
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-191	4-3
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.7	22.6
PUNT RETURN AVG.	7.6	1.2
INT RETURN AVG.	11.9	0.8
FUMBLES-LOST	11-6	23-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	92-836	43-396
Average Per Game	64.3	30.5
PUNTS-YARDS	41-1650	74-2945
Average Per Punt	40.2	39.8
Net punt average	37.4	35.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	33:49	26:11
3RD-DOWN CONV.	98/175	46/172
3rd-Down Pct.	56%	27%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	2/6	12/23
4th-Down Pct.	33%	52%
SACKS BY-YARDS	43-310	26-188
MISC YARDS	8	0
TDS SCORED	57	18
FG-ATTEMPTS	20-25	10-13
ATTENDANCE	370396	185137
Games/Avg Per Game	7/52914	5/37027
Neutral Site Games		1/51098

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Louisville	102	153	105	90	7	457
Opponent	8	40	35	75	0	158

5-YEAR RECORD 41-23

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Will Gardner (6-5, 230, So.)
	Brett Nelson (6-4, 231, Sr.)
RB	Dominique Brown (6-2, 216, Sr.)
	Michael Dyer (5-9, 215, Sr.)
LT	Jamon Brown (6-6, 350, Sr.)
	Skylar Lacy (6-6, 320, So.)
LG	John Miller (6-2, 321, Sr.)
	Pedro Sibiea (6-3, 301, So.)
C	Tobijah Hughley (6-3, 291, So.)
	Mike Romano (6-4, 293, Jr.)
RG	Jake Smith (6-4, 312, Sr.)
	Abraham Garcia (6-5, 347, Jr.)
RT	Ryan Mack (6-5, 319, Jr.)
	Kelby Johnson (6-7, 299, Jr.)
TE	Gerald Christian (6-3, 242, Sr.)
	Keith Towbridge (6-5, 263, So.)
WR	DeVante Parker (6-3, 209, Sr.)
	Matt Milton (6-5, 205, Sr.)
WR	Eli Rogers (5-10, 182, Sr.)
	Robert Clark (5-9, 173, Sr.)
WR	James Quick (6-2, 171, So.)
	Michaelee Harris (6-2, 202, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Sheldon Rankins (6-2, 287, Jr.)
	Finesse Middleton (5-11, 259, Fr.)
NT	DeAngelo Brown (6-1, 318, Jr.)
	Johnny Richardson (6-3, 285, Fr.)
DE	B.J. Dubose (6-5, 287, Sr.)
	Kyle Shortridge (6-3, 297, Fr.)
OLB	Keith Brown (6-1, 235, Jr.)
	Deiontrez Mount (6-5, 234, Sr.)
ILB	Keith Kelsey (6-1, 217, So.)
	Nick Dawson (6-3, 261, So.)
ILB	James Burgess (6-0, 215, Jr.)
	Lyn Clark (6-2, 232, Fr.)
OLB	Lorenzo Mauldin (6-4, 243, Sr.)
	Trevon Young (6-4, 235, So.)
CB	Charles Gaines (5-11, 174, Jr.)
	Richard Benjamin (6-0, 199, Fr.)
CB	Terell Floyd (5-10, 201, Sr.)
	Andrew Johnson (5-9, 186, Sr.)
S	Gerod Holliman (6-0, 201, Jr.)
	Chucky Williams (6-2, 180, So.)
S	Jermaine Reve (6-0, 180, Jr.)
	Terrence Ross (6-1, 186, Fr.)

Specialists

K	John Wallace (6-0, 196, Jr.)
P	Ryan Johnson (5-11, 199, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
ACC ATLANTIC
4

Steven Daniels

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ MASSACHUSETTS*	
S.5	Pittsburgh	
S.13	USC	7-35
S.20	Maine	
S.27	Colorado State	
O.11	@ N.C. STATE	38-21
O.18	Clemson	14-24
O.25	@ WAKE FOREST	24-10
N.1	@ VIRGINIA TECH	34-27
N.8	Louisville	
N.22	@ FLORIDA STATE	34-48
N.29	Syracuse	31-34

* At Foxboro, MA

COACH
Steve Addazio
Second year (7-6)
Career record: 20-17

Offensive coordinator: Ryan Day (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Don Brown (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Lost to Arizona in the AdvoCare V100 Bowl, 42-19)
Stadium: Alumni Stadium (44,500)
Tickets: 617-552-GOBC
Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Website: bceagles.com
Twitter: @BCFootballNews

The Florida-to-New England pipeline treated Boston College well last season. If the Eagles are to improve in coach Steve Addazio's second season on the Heights, they will probably need significant play out of some more former Gators.

Addazio, a former Florida assistant, invigorated what had become a moribund program. With tailback Andre Williams shattering the ACC record for rushing yards in a season while running behind a stout offensive line that included ex-Gator Matt Patchan, Boston College jumped from 2-10 to 7-6 thanks to a combination of sound fundamentals and opportunistic play.

Williams is gone, and theoretically the loss of a Heisman Trophy finalist should be the biggest hole in the conference. But Boston College returns three of those offensive line starters, and it also adds Florida transfer Ian Silberman (a part-time starter last season) up front.

Boston College's most significant transplant from Gainesville, however, will be quarterback Tyler Murphy. The senior, who started half the season for the Gators last year, is immediately eligible after graduating from Florida and arrived at Boston College in time for spring practice and is in line to replace four-year starter Chase Rettig.

Murphy probably won't be handing off to a single workhorse back like Rettig did last season. Myles Willis was Williams' top backup, but had only 60 carries in 11 games. He and fellow sophomore Tyler Rouse should vie for the chance to replace Williams well into fall camp.

The Eagles' defense should again be sound, with linebacker Steven Daniels and defensive backs Manuel Asprilla and Sean Sylvia among the top returnees. Look for Boston College to remain aggressive, as is the penchant of coordinator Don Brown's defenses.

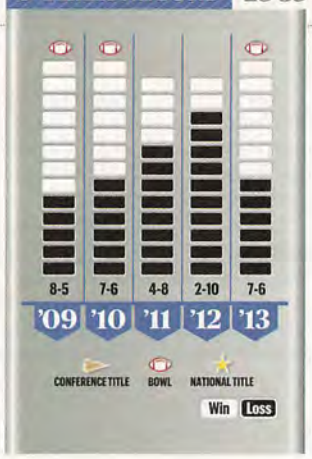
One of the biggest holes for Addazio to fill will be at kicker and punter, where Nate Freese departs after filling both roles last season. Freese leaves as Boston College's career leader in field goals and points.

Difference-maker
Steven Daniels, LB

Boston College has steadily produced great linebackers over the years. Daniels, who garners comparisons to reigning NFL Defensive Player of the Year Luke Kuechly, is the next in line. Like Kuechly, Daniels hails from St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati and has made a name for himself at BC as a prolific tackler whose focus sets him apart. Those comparisons are producing great expectations for the junior linebacker this year.

BOTTOM LINE
Addazio made an instant difference, immediately returning BC to the postseason. Even if the Eagles aren't close to contending for a division title, they can head back to a bowl game if Murphy is effective and Williams' output is replaced.

5-YEAR RECORD 28-35



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB	Tyler Murphy (6-2, 214, Sr.)
RB	Myles Willis (5-9, 192, So.)
FB	Bobby Wolford (6-4, 240, So.)
LT	Seth Betancourt (6-6, 300, Sr.)
LG	Bobby Vardaro (6-5, 306, Sr.)
C	Andy Gallik (6-3, 299, Sr.)
RG	Harris Williams (6-3, 303, Sr.)
RT	Ian Silberman (6-5, 293, Sr.)
TE	Jarrett Darmstatter (6-2, 250, Sr.)
WR	Harrison Jackson (6-2, 204, Jr.)
WR	Dave Dudeck (5-11, 189, Jr.)

Defense
DE	Malachi Moore (6-7, 267, So.)
DT	Mehdi Abdesmad (6-7, 290, Sr.)
DT	Connor Wujciak (6-3, 296, Jr.)
DE	Kevin Kavalec (6-3, 251, So.)
LB	Josh Keyes (6-2, 220, Sr.)
LB	Sean Duggan (6-4, 244, Sr.)
LB	Steven Daniels (6-0, 257, Jr.)
CB	Manuel Asprilla (5-11, 178, Sr.)
CB	Bryce Jones (6-1, 174, Jr.)
S	Dominique Williams (6-0, 218, Sr.)
S	Sean Sylvia (6-0, 200, Sr.)

Specialists
K	Alex Howell (6-5, 208, Jr.)
P	Alex Howell (6-5, 208, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES
1. **Connor Strachan,** LB ★★★
2. **Jonathan Hilliman,** RB ★★★
3. **Thaddius Smith,** ATH ★★★

It was a solid 28-man class for the Eagles that included eight prospects from Massachusetts, led by Strachan. Hilliman was committed to Rutgers before flipping and is a solid downhill runner who has excellent potential in the BC system. Defensive end Harold Landry from Fayetteville, N.C., is one of five early enrollees and could be the steal of the class. Smith is a versatile playmaker with excellent feet who was one of the better prospects in Pennsylvania. Boston College has a tradition of finding offensive linemen; this year's find could be 6-7, 296-pound in-stater James Hendren.

DANIELS: FRED KFOURY III / ICON SMI

SYRACUSE ORANGE

5-YEAR RECORD 32-31

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Terrel Hunt (6-3, 233, Jr.)
RB	Prince-Tyson Gulley (5-9, 195, Sr.)
HB	Brisly Estime (5-9, 172, So.)
LT	Sean Hickey (6-5, 300, Sr.)
LG	Omari Palmer (6-2, 316, Jr.)
C	Rob Trudo (6-3, 292, Sr.)
RG	Nick Robinson (6-5, 281, Sr.)
RT	Michael Lasker (6-3, 320, Jr.)
TE	Josh Parris (6-2, 252, Jr.)
WR	Ashton Broyld (6-3, 223, Jr.)
WR	Jarrod West (6-2, 209, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Robert Welsh (6-3, 248, Sr.)
DT	Eric Crume (6-0, 296, Sr.)
DT	Marcus Coleman (6-1, 286, Jr.)
DE	Micah Robinson (6-4, 270, Sr.)
OLB	Cameron Lynch (5-11, 226, Sr.)
MLB	Marqez Hodge (6-1, 216, So.)
OLB	Dyshawn Davis (6-2, 221, Sr.)
CB	Brandon Reddish (5-11, 178, Sr.)
CB	Julian Whigham (6-1, 182, Jr.)
SS	Ritchy Desir (5-11, 185, Sr.)
FS	Durell Eskridge (6-3, 203, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Ryan Norton (5-11, 183, Jr.)
P	Riley Dixon (6-5, 219, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. K.J. Williams, ATH ★★★★
2. Chris Slayton, DE ★★★
3. Jonathan Thomas, LB ★★★

The states of Florida and Illinois were good to the Orange in the 2014 cycle, as half of this class hails from those two states. A pair of receivers from south Florida—Steve Ishmael and Adly Enoicy—combine with Philadelphia's Jamal Curtis, prep schooler Corey Cooper and Treevon Porter from East St. Louis, Ill., to give Syracuse five solid pass catchers in the class. Another south Florida prospect, Alin Edouard, could be the QB of the future. In-state running back Naesean Howard from West Genessee could make some noise quickly—he impresses on film. Keep an eye on massive tackle Denzel Ward.

Terrel Hunt

Last season was one of transition at Syracuse, which entered the ACC after a two-decade run in the Big East and also played its debut season under first-time head coach Scott Shafer.

The results were mixed, but the Orange's closing stretch (which included a Texas Bowl defeat of Minnesota) provides some hope that a little more familiarity will provide the opportunity to make some progress this season.

Syracuse at least enters the season with some certainty at quarterback. Junior Terrel Hunt, who started the last 10 games, will take a solid grip of the position into next season after wresting the job away from Drew Allen in September.

Offensive coordinator George McDonald has made no secret of his desire to push the tempo, and while there is some appeal in unleashing the dual-threat Hunt in such a system, it remains to be seen if the Orange has the personnel to sustain such a pace.

There are pieces in place. While bruising tailback Jerome Smith left for the NFL a year early, his backfield partner Prince-Tyson Gulley returns and juniors Devante McFarlane and George Morris II should also see their roles increase. Three of Syracuse's four 20-catch receivers, including Ashton Broyld and Brisly Estime, are also back.

Difference-maker

Terrel Hunt, QB

A true dual threat, Hunt's size, agility and ability to find an opening make him difficult for defenses to contain. Making his first start in last season's third game, Hunt led Syracuse to a 7-4 record over the last 11 games with 2,138 yards of total offense. He has momentum going into this season coming off an MVP performance (188 passing yards, 74 rushing, 2 TDs) in the Orange's 21-17 win over Minnesota in the Texas Bowl.

Syracuse was unabashedly aggressive on defense in Shafer's first season in charge, and that should continue to be a defining characteristic of the Orange. Outside linebackers Dyshawn Davis and Cameron Lynch and safety Durell Eskridge are the most known quantities on that side of the ball. Lynch had 12 tackles for loss as a junior, while Eskridge led the team in stops (78) despite missing the bowl game with an injury.

Punter Riley Dixon is back after an effective first season as a starter. Syracuse's kicking game was a bit of an adventure after Ross Krautman was lost for the season with a hip injury. Krautman is back but missed spring practice as he continued to recover. He and junior Ryan Norton will contend for field goal and PAT duties.

BOTTOM LINE

Syracuse should show some improvement this season, but Louisville's addition to the Atlantic Division doesn't help matters. How well the Orange's experiment with a fast-paced offense unfolds will go a long way to determining its success.

5 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
ACC ATLANTIC

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.29	Villanova	
S.13	@ CENTRAL MICHIGAN	
S.20	Maryland	20-3
S.27	Notre Dame*	
O.3	Louisville	
O.11	Florida State	3-59
O.18	@ WAKE FOREST	13-0
O.25	@ CLEMSON	14-49
N.1	N.C. State	24-10
N.8	Duke	
N.22	@ PITTSBURGH	16-17
N.29	@ BOSTON COLLEGE	34-31

* At East Rutherford, NJ

COACH

Scott Shafer
Second year (7-6)
Career record: 7-6

Offensive coordinator: George McDonald (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Chuck Bullough (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Beat Minnesota in the Texas Bowl, 21-17)
Stadium: Carrier Dome (49,262)
Tickets: 1-888-DOMETIX
Site: Syracuse, N.Y.
Website: cuse.com
Twitter: @CuseFootball

HUNT: MIKE GROLL / AP

N.C. STATE WOLFPACK

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

ACC ATLANTIC

6

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Georgia Southern	
S.6	Old Dominion	
S.13	@ SOUTH FLORIDA	
S.20	Presbyterian	
S.27	Florida State	17-49
O.4	@ CLEMSON	14-26
O.11	Boston College	21-38
O.18	@ LOUISVILLE	
N.1	@ SYRACUSE	10-24
N.8	Georgia Tech	
N.15	Wake Forest	13-28
N.29	@ NORTH CAROLINA	19-27

COACH

Dave Doeren
Second year (3-9)
Career record: 26-13

Offensive coordinator: Matt Canada (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Dave Huxtable (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 3-9
Stadium: Carter-Finley Stadium (57,583)
Tickets: 919-865-1510
Site: Raleigh, N.C.
Website: gopack.com
Twitter: @PackFootball

Bryan Underwood

North Carolina State athletic director Debbie Yow took a calculated risk when she fired Tom O'Brien after the 2012 season, trading the likely assurance of 7-5 and 8-4 seasons for the possibility of something far grander with the hire of Dave Doeren.

More than a year later, Doeren still doesn't have a conference victory, though the Wolfpack should show some improvement after a forgettable transition year.

Perhaps the best reason to think N.C. State could sniff a bowl game (something it didn't come close to last season despite playing eight home games and only crossing the state line on two occasions) is the presence of a quarterback who fits into Doeren's system. Remember, his two Northern Illinois teams were led by Chandler Harnish and Jordan Lynch, a pair of quarterbacks with potent passing and rushing numbers.

Enter Florida transfer Jacoby Brissett, the heir apparent all of last season as Brandon Mitchell (injured in the opener) and Pete Thomas (a traditional dropback passer who was a poor fit for Doeren's offense) took turns trying to coax points out of the rest of the injury-plagued offense.

Brissett does have some talent to work with, including incumbent running back Shadrach Thornton and wide receivers Bryan Underwood and Marquez Valdes-Scantling. Thornton averaged 78.9 rushing yards per game against conference foes, while Underwood is a multiyear mainstay with 13 career touchdown receptions.

There is much for the Wolfpack to improve on defensively, especially after giving up at least 38 points to each of its final four opponents as part of a season-ending eight-game losing streak. Stopping the run after surrendering 180.2 yards per game on the ground will be a particular priority.

Kicker Niklas Sade (19-for-23 on field goals) and punter Wil Baumann (42.1-yard average) will again handle specialist duties as seniors.

Difference-maker

Bryan Underwood, WR

One of the most memorable plays of 2013 was an 83-yard touchdown run by Underwood with the Wolfpack trailing third-ranked Clemson 13-7. It was called back as one official thought Underwood stepped out of bounds. But the run—particularly a flailing attempt to grab Underwood's jersey by Clemson's Quandon Christian—illustrated the speedster's open-field explosiveness. Expect the Wolfpack to try getting the ball to Underwood in space this year—where he's lethal.

BOTTOM LINE

The improved depth at the offensive skill positions is encouraging, but N.C. State's defense was so leaky last season that it is likely the Wolfpack is still another year away from becoming truly interesting again.

5-YEAR RECORD 32-31

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Jacoby Brissett (6-4, 236, Jr.)
RB	Shadrach Thornton (6-1, 207, Jr.)
LT	Andy Jomantas (6-7, 288, Sr.)
LG	Joe Thuney (6-5, 285, Jr.)
C	Quinton Schooley (6-4, 301, Jr.)
RG	Alex Barr (6-7, 322, Jr.)
RT	Tyson Chandler (6-7, 354, Sr.)
TE	David J. Grinnage (6-5, 273, So.)
WR	Bryan Underwood (5-9, 179, Sr.)
WR	Marquez Valdes-Scantling (6-3, 203, So.)
WR	Bo Hines (6-1, 190, Fr.)

Defense

DE	Art Norman (6-0, 252, Sr.)
DT	Thomas Teal (6-1, 308, Sr.)
DT	T.Y. McGill (6-1, 289, Sr.)
DE	Mike Rose (6-3, 265, Jr.)
OLB	Brandon Pittman (6-2, 218, Sr.)
MLB	M.J. Salahuddin (6-2, 223, Jr.)
OLB	Rodman Noel (6-4, 220, Sr.)
CB	Jack Tocho (6-1, 196, So.)
CB	Juston Burris (6-1, 207, Jr.)
S	Hakim Jones (6-2, 198, Jr.)
S	Josh Jones (6-2, 210, Fr.)

Specialists

K	Niklas Sade (6-3, 199, Sr.)
P	Wil Baumann (6-6, 197, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

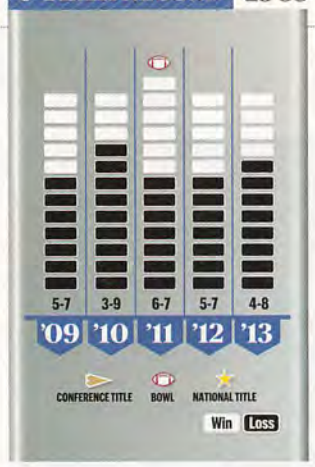
1. **Kentavius Street,** DE ★★★★
2. **Jalan McClendon,** QB ★★★★
3. **Troy Vincent,** CB ★★★

This 30-man Wolfpack class is a testament to the depth of talent in North Carolina, as 16 are in-state, including Street and McClendon, a 6-4 passer with a big arm who could be the future in Raleigh. Germaine Pratt, who is one of seven early enrollees, could be a linebacker or defensive back in college and has an excellent frame at 6-3 and 190 pounds. He had committed to Penn State before switching after the coaching change in State College and is one of four signees from Maryland. Wide receiver Bo Hines is a 6-1, 180-pounder from Charlotte who runs sub-4.5 in the 40-yard dash.

UNDERWOOD: KARL B DEBLAKER / AP

WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

5-YEAR RECORD 23-38



Brandon Chubb

7
PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
ACC ATLANTIC

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Tyler Cameron (6-3, 220, So.)
RB	Orville Reynolds (5-9, 185, Sr.)
LT	Antonio Ford (6-4, 310, Sr.)
LG	Tyler Hayworth (6-4, 310, So.)
C	Cory Helms (6-4, 290, So.)
RG	Josh T. Harris (6-4, 290, So.)
RT	Dylan Intemann (6-5, 310, Jr.)
TE	Cam Serigne (6-3, 215, So.)
WR	Brandon Terry (6-5, 205, Sr.)
WR	Tyree Harris (6-3, 180, So.)
WR	Jared Crump (6-3, 190, So.)

Defense

DE	Zachary Allen (6-4, 240, Sr.)
DT	Josh Banks (6-4, 250, So.)
DT	Johnny Garcia (6-4, 260, Sr.)
DE	Desmond Floyd (6-5, 255, Jr.)
LB	Brandon Chubb (6-4, 240, Jr.)
LB	Hunter Williams (6-0, 230, Jr.)
LB	Marquel Lee (6-3, 200, So.)
CB	Kevin Johnson (6-1, 175, Sr.)
CB	Merrill Noel (5-10, 180, Sr.)
S	Ryan Janvion (5-11, 190, So.)
S	Anthony Wooding Jr. (6-2, 185, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Chad Hedlund (6-1, 185, Jr.)
P	Alexander Kinal (6-4, 210, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

247 YEAR RATING

1. Zeek Rodney, DT ★★★
2. Rashawn Shaw, DE ★★★
3. Jaylan Barbour, WR ★★★

New head coach Dave Clawson and staff did a good job in a short amount of time after taking over. Rodney and Shaw could play defensive line anywhere in the country, while linebacker Zack Wary of Rogers, Ark., has a big frame at 6-4 and 215 pounds and can run. He has high potential. Quarterback John Wolford was a highly decorated quarterback from Bishop Kenny in Jacksonville, Fla., who was originally committed to East Carolina before flipping to the Demon Deacons. A'lique Terry is a 6-1, 291-pound center with plus athleticism who can be excellent with development.

The 2014 season looked for some time like it would be one of change for Wake Forest. Several program mainstays–including wideout Michael Campanaro, tailback Josh Harris, quarterback Tanner Price and nose guard Nikita Whitlock–departed Winston-Salem after last fall.

So did coach Jim Grobe, who resigned after a 13-year run that included a remarkable three-year peak highlighted by the improbable 2006 ACC title followed by five consecutive losing seasons to close out his tenure.

Despite those recent struggles, Wake Forest was one of the few top coaching jobs to open immediately after the season, and athletic director Ron Wellman landed 46-year-old Dave Clawson just days after he led the Bowling Green Falcons to their first victory in the Mid-American Conference title game.

Clawson produced 10-win seasons on his way up the coaching ladder at Fordham and Richmond, so he knows a bit about winning at private schools with strong academic profiles. He's also one of the most experienced head coaches in the ACC; only Virginia Tech's Frank Beamer and Georgia Tech's Paul Johnson have more seasons as a head coach than Clawson's 14.

He'll need time, though, to build Wake Forest back into a bowl team. The questions start at quarterback, where sophomore Tyler Cameron and junior Kevin Sousa spent the spring competing for the starting job.

Senior Orville Reynolds returns to running back after spending last season primarily at receiver. No wideout with more than 23 catches last season is back, leaving that position in flux. Three of the Deacons' primary starters on the offensive line return–guard Tyler Hayworth, center Cory Helms and tackle Dylan Intemann–and all of them have at least two years of eligibility remaining.

Clawson and his staff must rebuild the defensive front seven, where the ultra-productive Whitlock is one of five starters gone from last season. The secondary should be a source of some stability as cornerbacks Kevin Johnson and Merrill Noel and safety Ryan Janvion all return after starting last fall.

Difference-maker

Brandon Chubb, LB

Several attributes make Chubb a standout linebacker: speed, toughness and a knack for the big hit. The 6-1, 240-pound redshirt junior made great strides in between his freshman and sophomore seasons, going from special teams to recording 88 tackles as a defensive starter. Another big step is necessary, as he'll have a leadership role this year under first-year coach Dave Clawson.

BOTTOM LINE

Deacon fans should be encouraged by the hire of an established head coach with a record of success at all three of his previous stops. But immediate results will be elusive.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	@ LOUISIANA-MONROE	19-21
S.6	Gardner-Webb	
S.13	@ UTAH STATE	
S.20	Army	25-11
S.27	@ LOUISVILLE	
O.4	@ FLORIDA STATE	3-59
O.18	Syracuse	0-13
O.25	Boston College	10-24
N.6	Clemson	7-56
N.15	@ NC STATE	28-13
N.22	Virginia Tech	
N.29	@ DUKE	21-28

COACH

Dave Clawson
First year
Career record: 90-81

Offensive coordinator: Warren Ruggiero (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Mike Elko (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 4-8
Stadium: BB&T Field (31,500)
Tickets: 1-888-758-DEAC
Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.
Website: wakeforestsports.com
Twitter: @WakeFB

CHUBB: JEREMY MCKNIGHT / ICON SMI

NORTH CAROLINA
TAR HEELS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
ACC COASTAL
1

Ryan Switzer

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Liberty	
S.6	San Diego State	
S.20	@ EAST CAROLINA	31-55
S.27	@ CLEMSON	
O.4	Virginia Tech	17-27
O.11	@ NOTRE DAME	
O.18	Georgia Tech	20-28
O.25	@ VIRGINIA	45-14
N.1	@ MIAMI (FL)	23-27
N.15	Pittsburgh	34-27
N.20	@ DUKE	25-27
N.29	North Carolina State	27-19

COACH
Larry Fedora
Third year (15-10)
Career record: 49-29

Offensive coordinator: Seth Littrell (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Vic Koenning (third year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Beat Cincinnati in the Belk Bowl, 39-17)
Stadium: Kenan Memorial Stadium (63,000)
Tickets: 800-722-4335
Site: Chapel Hill, N.C.
Website: goheels.com
Twitter: @TarHeelFootball

There usually aren't many positives to come out of a 1-5 start in which a team loses its senior starting quarterback for the season with a shoulder injury.

But at North Carolina, Bryn Renner's early departure set the stage for the emergence of scrambling junior Marquise Williams, who helped the Tar Heels to a 4-1 finish and a blowout of Cincinnati in the Belk Bowl.

That closing stretch gave some hope that North Carolina is ready to turn the corner in Larry Fedora's third season in Chapel Hill, one in which the Tar Heels enter as the favorites in the tightly bunched Coastal Division. Whether or not Williams will remain in charge of the offense is still up in the air. Fedora has told reporters that the competition between Williams and highly touted redshirt freshman Mitch Trubisky is too early to call and will likely stretch into the summer.

Trubisky's strengths are his arm strength, accuracy and mobility. He enrolled early at UNC to participate in spring practices in 2013 and quickly gained a grasp of the offense. As strongly as Williams finished last season–he led the Tar Heels in rushing yards with 536–his accuracy was a question mark, as he completed 58.1 percent of his passes and threw six interceptions.

Whoever wins the job will have to work behind a retooled offensive line that could start as many as four sophomores. He'll also have to work without tight end Eric Ebron, who finished with 973 receiving yards and declared early for the NFL Draft. Receiver Quinshad Davis, who caught 10 touchdown passes, could be in for a breakout year.

Difference-maker
Ryan Switzer, WR/RS

Speed, elusiveness and ball skills come together to create a great playmaker in this diminutive West Virginian. But setting oneself apart from other great difference-makers requires an indescribable knack known as *it*. Switzer has *it*. In 2013 the true freshman tied an NCAA record with five punt returns for touchdowns, scoring his fifth in the Belk Bowl on an 86-yard runback that cemented a 39-17 win over Cincinnati and helped earn him game MVP honors.

SWITZER: CHUCK BURTON / AP

Though A.J. Blue is gone, the tailback tandem of T.J. Logan (533 yards) and Romar Morris (296) return to bolster the Heels' rushing attack, with highly touted true freshman Elijah Hood also expected to see time.

The other big part of North Carolina's turnaround was improved defensive play. The Heels allowed 55 points at home in a loss to East Carolina and gave up at least 20 points in each of their first six games. The schedule got easier down the stretch, and the defense got better, allowing more than 20 points in just two of UNC's final seven games.

Two thirds of the starting defensive line graduated, including end Kareem Martin, who led UNC with 11.5 sacks and 21.5 tackles for loss. The secondary will need to be rebuilt as well after the departure of safety Tre Boston, who intercepted a team-high five passes, and cornerback Jabari Price, who led UNC with nine pass breakups.

The linebacking corps should be a strength, as all four starters are set to return. Jeff Schoettmer ranked second on the team with 85 tackles. Norkeithus Otis is UNC's leading returning sack man after registering 7.5 last season. He also racked up 13 tackles for loss. Travis Hughes was fifth on the team with 76 tackles and Malik Simmons made 47 stops last year.

UNC hopes senior kicker Thomas Moore can exhibit more range this year. He was 14-for-19 on field goals but missed four of his five attempts from 40 yards or longer.

BOTTOM LINE

North Carolina has been a regular on the ACC's minor bowl circuit for more than a decade now, having appeared four times in Charlotte and once each in the Music City and Independence bowls since playing in the Peach Bowl (now Chick-Fil-A Bowl) in 2001. Now in his third year, Fedora's high-tempo offense has helped net some high-level recruits like Trubisky, and the Tar Heels are looking to take the next step and compete for a division title. The schedule isn't friendly and features trips to East Carolina, Clemson, Notre Dame, Miami and Duke. The Heels hope the returning linebacking corps and offensive talent are enough to put UNC in position to compete for a trip to the ACC Championship Game.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

The Tar Heels had the No. 29 class nationally and it featured two major in-state gets for coach Larry Fedora and staff in Hood and Spain, a pair of U.S. Army All-Americans from Charlotte, N.C., who have already enrolled. Hood was committed to Notre Dame before flipping. Virginia was a good state to North Carolina for the 2014 cycle, as Henderson, safety M.J. Stewart and defensive lineman Jeremiah Clarke are among the five signees from that commonwealth. Keep an eye on offensive tackle Caleb Samuel, a high-upside prospect from a small school in Georgia who could develop into something great. As good as the 2014 class was to UNC, the Heels are set up for a monster haul in 2015, so the future is bright in Chapel Hill.

TOP SIGNEES (247 Star Rating)

1. Elijah Hood, RB ★★★★
2. Bentley Spain, OT ★★★★
3. Caleb Henderson, QB ★★★★

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Marquise Williams	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	12	141.1	126-217-6	58.1	1698	15	141.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Marquise Williams	12	111	536	4.8	6	44.7

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Quinshad Davis	13	48	730	15.2	10	56.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Jeff Schoettmer	13	46	39	85

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Norkeithus Otis	13	7.5	66

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Dominique Green	3	62	20.7	1

Marquise Williams

WILLIAMS: KEITH SRAKOCIC / AP

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	UNC	OPP
SCORING	425	318
Points Per Game	32.7	24.5
FIRST DOWNS	279	278
Rushing	103	122
Passing	159	142
Penalty	17	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	1928	2372
Yards gained rushing	2239	2761
Yards lost rushing	311	389
Rushing Attempts	490	569
Average Per Rush	3.9	4.2
Average Per Game	148.3	182.5
TDs Rushing	19	19
PASSING YARDAGE	3606	2869
Comp-Att-Int	283-453-11	237-424-13
Average Per Pass	8.0	6.8
Average Per Catch	12.7	12.1
Average Per Game	277.4	220.7
TDs Passing	28	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	5534	5241
Total Plays	943	993
Average Per Play	5.9	5.3
Average Per Game	425.7	403.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	49-1166	57-1317
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	30-544	18-52
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-95	11-75
KICK RETURN AVG.	23.8	23.1
PUNT RETURN AVG.	18.1	2.9
INT RETURN AVG.	7.3	6.8
FUMBLES-LOST	16-7	19-7
PENALTIES-YARDS	96-831	69-553
Average Per Game	63.9	42.5
PUNTS-YARDS	68-2909	73-3046
Average Per Punt	42.8	41.7
Net punt average	40.2	33.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	27:41	32:19
3RD-DOWN CONV.	77/188	84/211
3rd-Down Pct.	41%	40%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	14/21	7/21
4th-Down Pct.	67%	33%
SACKS BY-YARDS	31-264	21-166
MISC YARDS	0	70
TDS SCORED	55	38
FG-ATTEMPTS	14-19	18-21
ATTENDANCE	360500	304281
Games/Avg Per Game	7/51500	5/60856
Neutral Site Games		1/45211

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
North Carolina	111	146	101	67	0	425
Opponent	84	71	73	90	0	318

5-YEAR RECORD 38-26

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Marquise Williams (6-2, 215, Jr.)
	Mitch Trubisky (6-3, 210, Fr.)
TB	Romar Morris (5-10, 185, Jr.)
	T.J. Logan (5-10, 180, So.)
LT	John Ferranto (6-5, 290, So.)
	Myers Colvin (6-5, 310, Jr.)
LG	Caleb Peterson (6-5, 300, So.)
	Will Dancy (6-4, 295, Jr.)
C	Lucas Crowley (6-3, 270, So.)
	Arien Smith (6-1, 260, Jr.)
RG	Landon Turner (6-4, 320, Jr.)
	Harris Hite (6-6, 300, Jr.)
RT	Jon Heck (6-6, 300, So.)
	Kiaro Holts (6-4, 295, Jr.)
TE	Jack Tabb (6-3, 240, Sr.)
	Eric Albright (6-6, 225, Sr.)
WR	Ryan Switzer (5-10, 175, So.)
	Kendrick Singleton (6-2, 200, Jr.)
WR	T.J. Thorpe (6-0, 200, Jr.)
	Mark McNeill (6-4, 215, Sr.)
WR	Quinshad Davis (6-4, 205, Jr.)
	Bug Howard (6-4, 195, So.)

Defense

DE	Junior Gnonkonde (6-4, 240, So.)
	Jessie Rogers (6-4, 260, Jr.)
DT	Ethan Farmer (6-3, 295, Sr.)
	Shawn Underwood (6-1, 305, Sr.)
DT	Justin Thomason (6-4, 265, Jr.)
	Devonte Brown (6-3, 280, Sr.)
BAND	Norkeithus Otis (6-1, 240, Sr.)
	Darius Lipford (6-3, 245, Sr.)
WILL	Travis Hughes (6-2, 225, Sr.)
	Jack Tabb (6-3, 240, Sr.)
MIKE	Jeff Schoettmer (6-1, 220, Jr.)
	Nathan Staub (6-2, 240, So.)
RAM	Malik Simmons (5-11, 190, Jr.)
	Ryan Mangum (6-0, 195, Jr.)
CB	Alex Dixon (6-0, 185, Jr.)
	T.J. Jiles (5-11, 165, Jr.)
CB	Tim Scott (5-11, 190, Sr.)
	Desmond Lawrence (6-1, 175, So.)
FS	Brian Walker (5-11, 175, So.)
	Kameron Jackson (5-11, 190, Jr.)
SS	Dominique Green (5-11, 185, So.)
	Darien Rankin (5-11, 200, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Thomas Moore (5-10, 200, Sr.)
P	Tommy Hibbard (5-10, 190, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

MIAMI HURRICANES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

ACC COASTAL

2

Duke Johnson

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
S.1	@ LOUISVILLE	9-36
S.6	Florida A&M	
S.13	Arkansas State	
S.20	@ NEBRASKA	
S.27	Duke	30-48
O.4	@ GEORGIA TECH	45-30
O.11	Cincinnati	
O.23	@ VIRGINIA TECH	24-42
N.1	North Carolina	27-23
N.15	Florida State	14-41
N.22	@ VIRGINIA	45-26
N.29	Pittsburgh	41-31

COACH

Al Golden
Fourth year (22-15)
Career record: 49-49

Offensive coordinator: James Coley (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Mark D'Onofrio (fourth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 9-4
(Lost to Louisville in the Russell Athletic Bowl, 36-9)
Stadium: Sun Life Stadium (74,916)
Tickets: 305-284-2263
Site: Coral Gables, Fla.
Website: hurricanesports.com
Twitter: @MiamiHurricanes

Miami's renaissance in 2013 seemed to be real. A 7-0 record. A top-10 ranking. A Sunshine State showdown with Florida State in Tallahassee, just like in the old days.

Then, against the Seminoles, speedy running back Duke Johnson broke his ankle, and the Hurricanes' season unraveled. Florida State, Virginia Tech and Duke all beat the Hurricanes in consecutive weeks, losses in which Miami didn't have Johnson or top receiver Phillip Dorsett (MCL injury). Receiver Rashawn Scott was already out with a broken collarbone suffered in the opener against Florida Atlantic, and the injuries were enough to wreck what had been a promising season.

Johnson, a dynamic threat who is capable of reaching the end zone just about any time he touches the ball, missed spring practice as his ankle continued to heal. Just when fourth-year coach Al Golden thought he was done with the injury bug, senior quarterback Ryan Williams, a Memphis transfer, tore his ACL in the spring and will likely miss the entire 2014 season.

That leaves redshirt freshman Kevin Olsen, the younger brother of former Hurricanes tight end Greg Olsen, as the last man standing at the top of the quarterback depth chart. Olsen was ranked among the top 10 quarterbacks in the country by most recruiting services coming out of Wayne Hills High School in New Jersey (though his only experience is running the Miami scout team).

There will be no easing into the schedule, either. Miami opens with a Labor Day game at Louisville, which routed the Hurricanes 36-9 in last December's Russell Athletic Bowl.

Quarterback isn't the only question on offense. The right side of the offensive line–Brandon Linder and Seantrel

Difference-maker

Duke Johnson, RB

A fully healthy Johnson will return some major firepower to Miami's offense. The speedy, versatile back was the workhorse out of the backfield last year with 920 rushing yards before a fractured ankle in November caused him to miss the last five games of the season. With him, the Hurricanes can hang with anyone.

JOHNSON: WILFREDO LEE / AP

Henderson–graduated. Assuming Johnson is healthy for the season opener, he'll have a new understudy in sophomore Gus Edwards, as junior Dallas Crawford has moved to safety in hopes of bolstering a Miami secondary that struggled to stop anyone last season. The receiving corps should be deep, boosted by the return of Scott and Dorsett and the continued emergence of Stacy Coley, a sophomore who led the Hurricanes with 1,461 all-purpose yards and earned Freshman All-America honors.

More pressing for the Hurricanes are the question marks on defense. The offensive injuries certainly hurt, but Miami allowed at least 31 points in five of its final six games in 2013 and gave up 41 or more in each of the losses during the season-defining three-game losing streak. Those struggles led to lots of competition during the spring. Only middle linebacker Denzel Perryman, safety Jamal Carter and cornerbacks Tracy Howard and Artie Burns head into fall practice with true job security.

Miami ranked 89th in the FBS in total defense, 77th in run defense, 90th in passing yards allowed and 88th in third-down-conversion-percentage defense.

Competition will be especially fierce along the defensive line, where the big loss is end Shayon Green, who led UM with 10.5 tackles for loss in 2013.

BOTTOM LINE

For the first time in Golden's tenure, the Hurricanes will open the year with no threat of NCAA sanctions. All concern now moves to the field, and how quickly Olsen develops at quarterback will likely determine if the Hurricanes will be a serious contender to make their first ACC title game appearance. The two other major Coastal Division contenders–North Carolina and Duke–both visit Sun Life Stadium, as does Florida State. Miami has a tricky Thursday trip to Lane Stadium to meet a rebuilding Virginia Tech team. If Olsen develops quickly and the Hurricanes show some improvement on defense, they could emerge as Coastal champs.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. Chad Thomas, DE ★★★★★
2. Joseph Yearby, RB ★★★★
3. KC McDermott, OT ★★★★

The Hurricanes ended up with the nation's No. 12 class (No. 2 in the ACC) and enrolled nine prospects early, including McDermott and four-star offensive tackle Trevor Darling, who in time could give Miami a pair of elite bookends. Yearby was one of the most prolific running backs in the Florida high school ranks the last three years at Miami Central (where he platooned with five-star Florida State signee Dalvin Cook), and Thomas has elite upside and athleticism. Miami went to California to land quarterback Brad Kaaya and he has excellent tools. The 'Canes needed quick help at defensive tackle and Calvin Heurtelou arrived from Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College in January. Another junior-college defensive tackle, Michael Wyche, and high school prospect Anthony Moten are two more to watch there. Defensive end Demetrius Jackson and outside linebacker Mike Smith are two under-the-radar prospects who could be great.

PERRYMAN: JOHN RAOUX / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Ryan Williams	4	190.3	22-32-1	68.8	369	3	92.2

RUSHING

	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Duke Johnson	8	145	920	6.3	6	115.0

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Clive Walford	13	34	454	13.4	2	34.9

DEFENSE

TACKLES

	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Denzel Perryman	13	69	39	108

SACKS

	GP	No.	Yards
Tyriq McCord	13	4.0	32

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Tracy Howard	4	55	13.8	1

Denzel Perryman

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	MIA	OPP
SCORING	440	348
Points Per Game	33.8	26.8
FIRST DOWNS	247	287
Rushing	101	123
Passing	126	154
Penalty	20	10
RUSHING YARDAGE	2084	2295
Yards gained rushing	2382	2586
Yards lost rushing	298	291
Rushing Attempts	436	522
Average Per Rush	4.8	4.4
Average Per Game	160.3	176.5
TDs Rushing	25	26
PASSING YARDAGE	3452	3248
Comp-Att-Int	226-384-14	266-442-18
Average Per Pass	9.0	7.3
Average Per Catch	15.3	12.2
Average Per Game	265.5	249.8
TDs Passing	25	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	5536	5543
Total Plays	820	964
Average Per Play	6.8	5.8
Average Per Game	425.8	426.4
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	60-1505	42-833
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	27-305	16-196
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	18-250	14-141
KICK RETURN AVG.	25.1	19.8
PUNT RETURN AVG.	11.3	12.2
INT RETURN AVG.	13.9	10.1
FUMBLES-LOST	14-8	17-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	71-582	81-595
Average Per Game	44.8	45.8
PUNTS-YARDS	54-2498	64-2576
Average Per Punt	46.3	40.2
Net punt average	39.3	33.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	25:59	34:01
3RD-DOWN CONV.	56/160	83/198
3rd-Down Pct.	35%	42%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/19	14/21
4th-Down Pct.	42%	67%
SACKS BY-YARDS	29-177	17-147
MISC YARDS	70	0
TDS SCORED	57	43
FG-ATTEMPTS	13-17	17-21
ATTENDANCE	376857	258018
Games/Avg Per Game	7/53837	5/51604
Neutral Site Games		1/51098

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Miami	136	124	93	87	0	440
Opponent	95	84	61	108	0	348

5-YEAR RECORD 38-25

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Kevin Olsen (6-3, 210, Fr.)
	Gray Crow (6-3, 224, So.)
RB	Duke Johnson (5-9, 206, Jr.)
	Gus Edwards (6-2, 235, So.)
FB	Walter Tucker (6-0, 218, So.)
	Ronald Regula (6-2, 240, Sr.)
LT	Ereck Flowers (6-6, 322, Jr.)
	KC McDermott (6-6, 314, Fr.)
LG	Jon Feliciano (6-5, 320, Sr.)
	Hunter Wells (6-6, 312, Jr.)
C	Shane McDermott (6-4, 296, Sr.)
	Alex Gall (6-5, 306, So.)
RG	Danny Isidora (6-4, 316, So.)
	Trevor Darling (6-5, 320, Fr.)
RT	Taylor Gadbois (6-8, 316, So.)
	Sunny Odogwu (6-8, 324, Fr.)
TE	Standish Dobard (6-4, 260, So.)
	Beau Sandland (6-6, 255, Sr.)
WR	Stacy Coley (6-1, 185, So.)
	Malcolm Lewis (6-0, 193, So.)
WR	Phillip Dorsett (5-10, 185, Sr.)
	Rashawn Scott (6-2, 205, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Ufomba Kamalu (6-6, 285, Jr.)
	Anthony Chickillo (6-4, 277, Sr.)
DT	Earl Moore (6-1, 304, Jr.)
	Calvin Heurtelou (6-3, 310, Jr.)
DT	Olsen Pierre (6-5, 305, Sr.)
	Jelani Hamilton (6-5, 290, Jr.)
DE	Al-Quadin Muhammad (6-4, 242, So.)
	Tyriq McCord (6-3, 245, Jr.)
LB	Thurston Armbrister (6-3, 235, Sr.)
	Alex Figueroa (6-3, 242, So.)
LB	Denzel Perryman (6-0, 242, Sr.)
	JaWand Blue (6-0, 232, So.)
LB	Raphael Kirby (6-1, 235, Jr.)
	Jermaine Grace (6-1, 210, So.)
CB	Tracy Howard (5-11, 184, Jr.)
	Ladarius Gunter (6-2, 198, Sr.)
CB	Artie Burns (6-0, 198, So.)
	Antonio Crawford (5-11, 191, Jr.)
FS	Deon Bush (6-1, 203, Jr.)
	Dallas Crawford (5-10, 195, Jr.)
SS	Jamal Carter (6-1, 207, So.)
	Rayshawn Jenkins (6-1, 208, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Matt Goudis (6-0, 172, Jr.)
P	Ricky Carroll (6-3, 198, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

DUKE BLUE DEVILS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
ACC COASTAL
3

Jamison Crowder

2014 SCHEDULE		
DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Elon	
S.6	@ TROY	38-31
S.13	Kansas	
S.20	Tulane	
S.27	@ MIAMI (FL)	48-30
O.11	@ GEORGIA TECH	14-38
O.18	Virginia	35-22
N.1	@ PITTSBURGH	55-58
N.8	@ SYRACUSE	
N.15	Virginia Tech	13-10
N.20	North Carolina	27-25
N.29	Wake Forest	28-21

COACH
David Cutcliffe
Seventh year (31-44)
Career record: 75-73

Offensive coordinator: Scottie Montgomery (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Jim Knowles (fifth year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 10-4
(Lost to Texas A&M in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, 52-48)
Stadium: Wallace Wade Stadium (33,941)
Tickets: 1-877-375-DUKE
Site: Durham, N.C.
Website: goduke.com
Twitter: @Duke_FB

The starting point of Duke's magical 2013 season was a 13-10 victory over Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, a stunning result considering the Blue Devils had yet to beat the Hokies since Tech joined the ACC in 2004. With each passing week, Duke began to believe something special was in store, though those around the conference viewed the Blue Devils' run with some skepticism.

A 27-25 win at rival North Carolina gave Duke an eight-game season-ending win streak and a berth in the ACC Championship Game. How unlikely was Duke's run? Prior to 2012, the Blue Devils hadn't been to a bowl game in 18 years, and Duke had never appeared in a bowl in back-to-back seasons. Though Duke lost to Florida State in Charlotte and Texas A&M in the Chick-Fil-A Bowl, 2013 was one of the most successful in program history.

The natural question: Was 2013 a fluke, a run that came against a division filled with programs in various states of disrepair—or did it signal that the Blue Devils had arrived as a yearly contender in the Coastal?

Duke lost offensive coordinator Kurt Roper to Florida, but the Devils return plenty on offense, starting with quarterback Anthony Boone and ACC receiving leader Jamison Crowder. Quarterback Brandon Connette was granted a release at the end of the spring after he requested a transfer in order to be closer to home in California, a request stemming from Connette's mother's continued recovery from surgery to remove a brain tumor.

Duke will be without running back Jela Duncan, who is academically ineligible. Josh Snead and Shaquille Powell will look to pick up the slack.

Along with Crowder, who caught 108 passes for 1,360 yards and eight touchdowns last year, Duke returns athletic tight end Braxton Deaver (46 receptions, 600 yards, 4

Difference-maker
Jamison Crowder, WR

Crowder's combination of speed, elusiveness and good hands made him one of the most dynamic players in the ACC last year. He led the conference with 108 receptions, and contributed 401 yards on punt returns for 1,761 all-purpose yards and 10 touchdowns. He returns as arguably the most feared playmaker in the league.

CROWDER: CHUCK BURTON / AP

TDs). The Devils will need a secondary receiving threat to emerge, most likely junior wideout Max McCaffrey.

Duke will have to replace veteran offensive linemen Dave Harding and Perry Simmons, cornerstones of the Blue Devils' transformation into a physical unit.

The Blue Devils will be tasked with rebuilding a defensive front that lost starters Kenny Anunike, Justin Foxx and Sydney Sarmiento from a year ago. The only holdover is nose guard Jamal Bruce. The Devils will look for increased consistency from end Jordan DeWalt-Ondijo, a redshirt senior who has shown flashes of quickness but has made only nine career starts while missing seven games his first three seasons due to injuries.

Returning linebackers Kelby Brown and David Helton combined for 247 tackles and 15 tackles for loss last season. Duke must replace Ross Cockrell, one of the ACC's top cornerbacks, along with starter Garett Patterson. But coach David Cutcliffe was able to get Breon Borders and Bryon Fields plenty of playing time as freshmen, and both will have increased roles this season. Borders had four interceptions and eight pass breakups in 2013.

All three safety starters return, and all were productive in 2013. Jeremy Cash tied Borders for the team lead with four interceptions and was second on the squad with 121 tackles. DeVon Edwards had three picks and Deondre Singleton racked up 63 tackles.

BOTTOM LINE

Cutcliffe is the longest-tenured coach among the ACC's four North Carolina schools, and the Devils have quietly leaped to the head of the pack in recent seasons as North Carolina has struggled with NCAA issues and Wake Forest and N.C. State have undergone coaching shakeups. The Blue Devils beat Miami, North Carolina and Virginia Tech last season and are no longer viewed as an automatic win on anyone's schedule. Duke opens with winnable games against Elon, Troy, Kansas and Tulane before heading to Miami for a Sept. 27 showdown. Virginia Tech and UNC visit Durham and Duke drew Syracuse and Wake Forest as cross-divisional foes. Another run at the Coastal Division title is not out of the question.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

This class ranked only No. 58 nationally, but a closer look reveals a group with outstanding potential heading to Durham. The Blue Devils signed five quality offensive linemen—led by McNeill—one of the better groups in the ACC. Quarterback Nico Pierre (Miami/Coral Reef) and defensive tackle Edgar Cerenord (Fort Lauderdale, Fla./American Heritage) are two steals from south Florida, along with Lee. Shaun Wilson of West Mecklenburg High in Charlotte was one of the top performers at the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas all-star game as a cornerback. He could also play running back.

TOP SIGNEES

1 • **Trevon Lee,** WR ★★★
2 • **Alonzo Saxton,** CB ★★★
3 • **Trip McNeill,** OT ★★★

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Anthony Boone	10	123.5	177-277-11	63.9	1833	10	183.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Josh Snead	13	90	547	6.1	1	42.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jamison Crowder	13	96	1197	12.5	7	92.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
David Helton	13	37	85	122

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Jordan DeWalt-Ondijo	9	2.0	23

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Breon Borders	4	51	12.8	0
Jeremy Cash	4	18	4.5	0

Anthony Boone

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	DUKE	OPP
SCORING	411	321
Points Per Game	31.6	24.7
FIRST DOWNS	269	281
Rushing	126	132
Passing	134	130
Penalty	9	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	2258	2279
Yards gained rushing	2447	2571
Yards lost rushing	189	292
Rushing Attempts	507	543
Average Per Rush	4.5	4.2
Average Per Game	173.7	175.3
TDs Rushing	25	15
PASSING YARDAGE	3047	3032
Comp-Att-Int	269-427-17	234-422-18
Average Per Pass	7.1	7.2
Average Per Catch	11.3	13.0
Average Per Game	234.4	233.2
TDs Passing	23	21
TOTAL OFFENSE	5305	5311
Total Plays	934	965
Average Per Play	5.7	5.5
Average Per Game	408.1	408.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	35-875	51-1038
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	28-408	20-219
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	18-216	17-171
KICK RETURN AVG.	25.0	20.4
PUNT RETURN AVG.	14.6	10.9
INT RETURN AVG.	12.0	10.1
FUMBLES-LOST	15-6	15-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	61-540	82-710
Average Per Game	41.5	54.6
PUNTS-YARDS	69-2945	74-3020
Average Per Punt	42.7	40.8
Net punt average	37.8	34.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:36	31:24
3RD-DOWN CONV.	70/185	75/203
3rd-Down Pct.	38%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	13/19	14/27
4th-Down Pct.	68%	52%
SACKS BY-YARDS	23-155	16-86
MISC YARDS	0	-4
TDS SCORED	54	41
FG-ATTEMPTS	11-16	11-21
ATTENDANCE	182431	237097
Games/Avg Per Game	7/26062	5/47419
Neutral Site Games		1/67694

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Duke	70	117	104	120	0	411
Opponent	82	102	93	44	0	321

5-YEAR RECORD 27-42

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Anthony Boone (6-0, 230, Sr.)
	Thomas Sirk (6-4, 215, So.)
RB	Josh Snead (5-9, 190, Sr.)
	Shaquille Powell (5-10, 205, Jr.)
LT	Takoby Cofield (6-4, 305, Sr.)
	Carson Ginn (6-6, 300, Jr.)
LG	Cody Robinson (6-3, 300, Jr.)
	Marcus Aprahamian (6-4, 300, Jr.)
C	Matt Skura (6-4, 290, Jr.)
	Austin Davis (6-4, 290, Fr.)
RG	Laken Tomlinson (6-3, 320, Sr.)
	Alex Skidmore (6-4, 270, So.)
RT	Lucas Patrick (6-4, 310, Jr.)
	Sam Marshall (6-7, 285, Jr.)
TE	Braxton Deaver (6-5, 240, Sr.)
	David Reeves (6-5, 250, Jr.)
WR	Jamison Crowder (5-9, 175, Sr.)
	Anthony Nash (6-5, 200, So.)
WR	Max McCaffrey (6-2, 190, Jr.)
	Johnell Barnes (6-0, 175, So.)
WR	Issac Blakeney (6-6, 235, Sr.)
	Ryan Smith (5-7, 165, So.)

Defense

DE	Jordan DeWalt-Ondijo (6-4, 240, Sr.)
	Jonathan Jones (6-3, 225, Sr.)
NG	Jamal Bruce (6-1, 285, Sr.)
	Carlos Wray (6-2, 290, Jr.)
DT	A.J. Wolf (6-4, 270, So.)
	Mike Ramsay (6-2, 280, Fr.)
DE	Dezmond Johnson (6-4, 260, Sr.)
	Jamal Wallace (6-4, 275, Sr.)
MLB	Kelby Brown (6-2, 230, Sr.)
	Deion Williams (6-0, 230, Jr.)
WLB	David Helton (6-4, 235, Sr.)
	C.J. France (6-0, 230, Sr.)
CB	Breon Borders (6-0, 175, So.)
	Jared Boyd (5-9, 170, Jr.)
CB	Bryon Fields (5-11, 185, So.)
	Jamie Cockey (5-8, 175, Jr.)
S	Deondre Singleton (5-11, 175, So.)
	Dwayne Norman (6-1, 200, Jr.)
S	Jeremy Cash (6-2, 210, Jr.)
	Christian Conway (5-10, 200, Jr.)
S	DeVon Edwards (5-9, 185, So.)
	Corbin McCarthy (5-10, 200, So.)

Specialists

K	Ross Martin (5-9, 185, Jr.)
P	Will Monday (6-4, 210, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

BOONE: JOHN BAZEMORE / AP

VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
ACC COASTAL **4**

Kendall Fuller

Logan Thomas spent the last three years alternating between being the cure to all of the Hokies' offensive ills and being a scapegoat for everything that was wrong with Virginia Tech's offense.

The durable but inconsistent quarterback is gone, and Hokies fans got a preview of what the post-Thomas era would look like when a big hit in the second quarter of Tech's Sun Bowl loss to UCLA prematurely ended Thomas' college career. Mark Leal saw his first significant action as a Hokie in his stead, and it wasn't pretty. He went 12-for-25 for 130 yards, was sacked three times and threw two interceptions, including one that was returned for a touchdown.

Even with Texas Tech transfer Michael Brewer joining the program in May and freshman Andrew Ford enrolling early, Leal appears to be the front-runner.

Running back Trey Edmunds broke out for 675 yards and 10 touchdowns last year but fractured his leg in the regular-season finale at Virginia and missed spring practice. Willie Byrn (660 receiving yards), Demitri Knowles (641) and Joshua Stanford (640) all return to help the Hokies' receiving corps, and tight end Ryan Malleck is expected to be a big contributor after missing 2013 with an injury.

Tech ranked fourth in the FBS in total defense but must replace two line cornerstones in end James Gayle and tackle Derrick Hopkins. Top tackler Jack Tyler is gone as well, leaving coordinator Bud Foster's linebacking corps thin on experience. The Hokies' corner tandem of Brandon Facyson and Kendall Fuller returns intact after the two combined for 11 interceptions as freshmen last year.

BOTTOM LINE

Replacing a three-year starter at quarterback is never easy, and though Leal is a senior, he has little in the way of game experience. He could be pushed early by Ford and Brewer. The Hokies play four of their first five at home, though the road game is a difficult one at Ohio State. Foster tends to reload rather than rebuild on defense, and Luther Maddy and Dadi Nicolas should help alleviate the loss of Gayle and Hopkins up front. Quarterback play will determine if Tech is a Coastal contender or simply fighting for a bowl berth.

Difference-maker

Kendall Fuller, CB

In 2013 Fuller was one half of the Hokies' dynamic freshman cornerback duo that included Brandon Facyson. The two finished among the top three in voting for ACC Defensive Rookie of the Year, with Fuller taking the crown. The crafty pass defender backed up a No. 1 high school ranking at his position with a 58-tackle, six-interception freshman campaign.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	William & Mary	
S.6	@ OHIO STATE	
S.13	East Carolina	15-10
S.20	Georgia Tech	17-10
S.27	Western Michigan	
O.4	@ NORTH CAROLINA	27-17
O.16	@ PITTSBURGH	19-9
O.23	Miami (FL)	42-24
N.1	Boston College	27-34
N.15	@ DUKE	10-13
N.22	@ WAKE FOREST	
N.28	Virginia	16-6

COACH

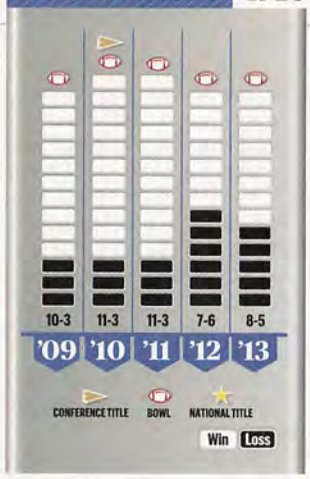
Frank Beamer
28th year (224-109-2)
Career record: 266-132-4

Offensive coordinator: Scot Loeffler (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Bud Foster (20th year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Lost to UCLA in the Sun Bowl, 42-12)
Stadium: Lane Stadium (65,632)
Tickets: 800-828-3244
Site: Blacksburg, Va.
Website: hokiesports.com
Twitter: @VT_Football

5-YEAR RECORD 47-20



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Mark Leal (6-1, 218, Sr.)
RB	Trey Edmunds (6-1, 217, So.)
FB	Sam Rogers (5-10, 215, So.)
LT	Jonathan McLaughlin (6-5, 314, So.)
LG	Caleb Farris (6-3, 303, Sr.)
C	David Wang (6-2, 298, Sr.)
RG	Brent Benedict (6-5, 302, Sr.)
RT	Laurence Gibson (6-6, 274, Sr.)
TE	Ryan Malleck (6-4, 241, Jr.)
FL	Demitri Knowles (6-1, 178, Jr.)
SE	Joshua Stanford (6-1, 196, So.)

Defense

DE	Dadi Nicolas (6-3, 218, Jr.)
DT	Corey Marshall (6-1, 257, Jr.)
DT	Luther Maddy (6-1, 291, Sr.)
DE	Ken Ekanem (6-3, 245, So.)
LB	Chase Williams (6-2, 215, Sr.)
LB	Deon Clarke (6-2, 221, Jr.)
LB	Ronny Vandyke (6-3, 204, Jr.)
ROV	Kyshoen Jarrett (5-11, 191, Sr.)
CB	Brandon Facyson (6-2, 191, So.)
CB	Kendall Fuller (5-11, 195, So.)
FS	Detrick Bonner (6-0, 194, Sr.)

Specialists

P	A.J. Hughes (6-1, 212, Jr.)
K	Michael Santamaria (5-9, 150, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

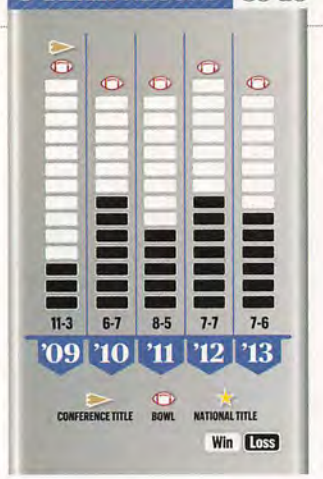
1. **Holland Fisher,** S ★★★★
2. **Shai McKenzie,** RB ★★★★
3. **Raymon Minor,** ATH ★★★★

This class, which ranked No. 27 nationally and No. 4 in the ACC, fills needs across the board. McKenzie and Marshawn Williams are power backs with speed who enrolled early, along with quarterback Andrew Ford. Two more signal-callers, Chris Durkin (a former Michigan State commit) and Travon McMillian, who could end up in the secondary, arrive later. Holland Fisher originally signed with Tech in the 2013 class and was the No. 1 overall prep school prospect in 2014 out of Fork Union Military. Wide receivers Isaiah Ford and Cameron Phillips have high upsides. Florida tried to flip Ford on Signing Day.

FULLER: LEE COLEMAN/ICON SMI

GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

5-YEAR RECORD 39-28



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Justin Thomas (5-11, 185, So.)
BB	Zach Laskey (6-1, 217, Sr.)
AB	Dennis Andrews (6-0, 182, So.)
AB	Synjyn Days (6-2, 232, Sr.)
LT	Bryan Chamberlain (6-4, 286, Jr.)
LG	Trey Braun (6-5, 295, Jr.)
C	Thomas O'Reilly (6-3, 302, Jr.)
RG	Shaquille Mason (6-1, 311, Sr.)
RT	Chase Roberts (6-3, 270, So.)
WR	Micheal Summers (6-1, 195, So.)
WR	DeAndre Smelter (6-3, 225, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Tyler Stargel (6-3, 242, So.)
DT	Jimmie Kitchen (6-3, 270, Jr.)
NT	Adam Gotsis (6-5, 285, Jr.)
DE	Patrick Gamble (6-5, 280, So.)
SLB	Anthony Harrell (6-2, 229, Jr.)
MLB	Jabari Hunt-Days (6-3, 249, Jr.)
WLB	Quayshawn Nealy (6-1, 236, Sr.)
CB	D.J. White (5-11, 190, Jr.)
CB	Jamal Golden (6-0, 193, Sr.)
FS	Isaiah Johnson (6-2, 213, Sr.)
SS	Demond Smith (6-0, 194, Jr.)

Specialists

P	Ryan Rodwell (6-2, 193, So.)
K	Harrison Butker (6-3, 201, So.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Myles Autry,** ATH/RB ★★★
2. **Stepheny Durham,** CB ★★★
3. **C.J. Leggett,** RB ★★★

Coach Paul Johnson recruits to fit his triple-option system on offense and there are some nice additions in this class (No. 54 nationally). Autry has elite playmaking potential down the road and Leggett could be one of the biggest steals any school in the conference landed in the 2014 cycle. Andrew Marshall, a center from Cumming, Ga., is an excellent fit at Tech and should have an excellent career. Defensively, juco end Kenderius Whitehead will help immediately and Michael Preddy (Porter-Gaud, S.C.) and Tyler Merriweather (Demopolis, Ala.) have good long-term potential.

Justin Thomas

Senior Shaquille Mason has been a cornerstone of the Georgia Tech offensive line for two years now, logging 26 starts at right guard and setting the tone for the Yellow Jackets' triple-option offense.

Mason will have to be at his best if the Yellow Jackets are going to make a move in 2014, because the rest of the offense is in overhaul mode. Quarterback Vad Lee transferred to James Madison, and top running backs David Sims and Robert Godhigh graduated, leaving coach Paul Johnson's squad bereft of experience across the board.

Sophomore Justin Thomas is the front-runner to replace Lee, but he's still learning all the reads involved with running the triple option. B-back Zach Laskey is the leading returning rusher after running for 485 yards and seven TDs in 2013.

The Jackets are also rebuilding an offensive line that graduated three seniors. It might make for a tough season in Atlanta for a program that's been treading water of late, just trying to keep its streak of 17 consecutive bowl appearances alive.

The Yellow Jackets switched from a 3-4 defense to a 4-3 under first-year coordinator Ted Roof last year with mixed results. Georgia Tech was strong against the run (11th in FBS) but 79th in pass-efficiency defense. Australian Adam Gotsis is the only returning starter on the defensive line, as the Jackets look for ways to replace end Jeremiah Attaochu, who racked up 31.5 sacks in his career, fifth in ACC history.

The return of safety Isaiah Johnson and cornerback Jamal Golden from injury should bolster the secondary, and starters Jabari Hunt-Days and Quayshawn Nealy return at linebacker.

Difference-maker

Justin Thomas, QB

The part of Thomas' game that most people are familiar with is his ability to run. He averaged more than seven yards per carry on 33 rushing attempts last year, showing the he can run the option effectively. However, the Yellow Jackets believe he will surprise teams with his arm strength, which would make him a legitimate dual threat and give Paul Johnson the dynamic quarterback he has been looking for since Josh Nesbitt graduated in 2010.

BOTTOM LINE

The Yellow Jackets last won more than eight games in 2009, when they finished with 10 victories and the ACC championship. With so much experience gone from last year's squad, another season near the .500 mark appears to be in order. As always, though, Johnson's triple-option offense will be difficult for teams to prepare for on short notice.

5 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
ACC COASTAL

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Wofford	
S.6	@ TULANE	
S.13	Georgia Southern	
S.20	@ VIRGINIA TECH	10-17
O.4	Miami (FL)	30-45
O.11	Duke	38-14
O.18	@ NORTH CAROLINA	28-20
O.25	@ PITTSBURGH	21-10
N.1	Virginia	35-25
N.8	@ NC STATE	
N.15	Clemson	31-55
N.29	@ GEORGIA	34-41

COACH

Paul Johnson
Seventh year (48-32)
Career record: 155-71

Offensive coordinator: Paul Johnson
Defensive coordinator: Ted Roof (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Lost to Ole Miss in the Music City Bowl, 25-17)
Stadium: Bobby Dodd Stadium (55,000)
Tickets: 888-TECH-TIX
Site: Atlanta
Website: ramblinwreck.com
Twitter: @GTAthletics

THOMAS: JOHN BATEMORE / AP

PITTSBURGH PANTHERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

ACC COASTAL

6

Ray Vinopal

Paul Chryst had two major responsibilities when he took over as Pittsburgh's head coach in 2012: He needed to bring stability to a program that was on its third coach in three years, and to revamp recruiting and rebuild the talent level of a program that hadn't produced an NFL draft pick since 2011.

Entering his third year, the program has seemingly stabilized, and a Little Caesars Pizza Bowl victory over Bowling Green has the Panthers trending in the right direction. Some of Chryst's recruits showed well in that game, including running back James Conner, who wrapped up a 799-yard freshman season in which he scored eight touchdowns.

Chryst has taken over as quarterbacks coach and will work to improve Chad Voytik, a sophomore who went five-for-nine for 108 yards in the bowl game. Voytik has an elite receiver to work with in Tyler Boyd, who caught 85 passes for 1,174 yards and seven touchdowns as a freshman. Four offensive linemen return, led by tackle T.J. Clemmings.

Pitt's defense ranked 34th in FBS a year ago due in large part to the play of graduated interior linemen Aaron Donald and Tyrone Ezell. Donald finished with 11 sacks and 28.5 tackles for loss and will be tough to replace. Safety Jason Hendricks, the team's leading tackler with 85, is gone as well.

One emphasis during spring practice was for Pitt's secondary to improve its interception numbers. The Panthers picked off eight passes last season, with half coming in one game against Duke. Junior cornerback Lafayette Pitts and senior safety Ray Vinopal will play big roles in the defensive backfield.

BOTTOM LINE

With the across-the-board improvement in talent and a favorable early schedule, Pittsburgh could be a surprise team in a fairly wide-open Coastal Division. The Panthers will have plenty of time to shore up the middle of the defensive line before hitting the meat of the schedule in November—a stretch that features trips to Coastal contenders North Carolina and Miami. Pitt is poised to make a move in Chryst's third year.

Difference-maker

Ray Vinopal, FS

Vinopal led Pitt in interceptions last year with three, co-led in total passes defended with nine, and was second in tackles with 83. The physical, 200-pound free safety had his best game in a win against Notre Dame that helped secure a bowl game appearance for the Panthers. In the fourth quarter of that contest, Vinopal made two interceptions—the first came in a second-and-goal situation for Notre Dame, and the second he returned to Notre Dame's five-yard line to set up Pitt's game-winning touchdown.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Delaware	
S.5	@ BOSTON COLLEGE	
S.13	@ FLORIDA INTL.	
S.20	Iowa	
S.27	Akron	
O.4	@ VIRGINIA	14-3
O.16	Virginia Tech	9-19
O.25	Georgia Tech	10-21
N.1	Duke	58-55
N.15	@ NORTH CAROLINA	27-34
N.22	Syracuse	17-16
N.29	@ MIAMI (FL)	31-41

COACH

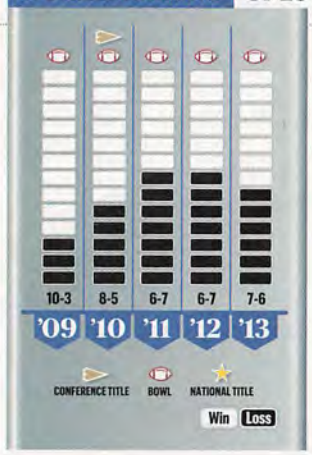
Paul Chryst
Third year (13-13)
Career record: 13-13

Offensive coordinator: Joe Rudolph (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Matt House (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Beat Bowling Green in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl, 30-27)
Stadium: Heinz Field (65,050)
Tickets: 800-643-PITT
Site: Pittsburgh
Website: pittsburghpanthers.com
Twitter: @GoPittFootball

5-YEAR RECORD 37-28



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Chad Voytik (6-1, 210, So.)
TB	James Conner (6-2, 230, So.)
LT	Adam Bisnowaty (6-6, 300, So.)
LG	Dorian Johnson (6-5, 290, So.)
C	Artie Rowell (6-2, 305, Jr.)
RG	Matt Rotheram (6-6, 330, Sr.)
RT	T.J. Clemmings (6-6, 305, Sr.)
TE	J.P. Holtz (6-4, 245, Jr.)
TE	Jaymar Parrish (6-2, 230, So.)
WR	Manasseh Garner (6-2, 230, Sr.)
WR	Tyler Boyd (6-2, 185, So.)

Defense

DE	David Durham (6-1, 255, Sr.)
DT	Darryl Render (6-2, 285, Jr.)
NT	Khaynin Mosley-Smith (6-0, 305, Jr.)
DE	Ejuan Price (6-0, 230, Jr.)
SLB	Anthony Gonzalez (6-3, 225, Sr.)
MLB	Matt Galambos (6-2, 215, So.)
WLB	Todd Thomas (6-2, 230, Sr.)
CB	Lafayette Pitts (5-11, 195, Jr.)
CB	Titus Howard (6-1, 180, So.)
SS	Terrish Webb (5-11, 170, So.)
FS	Ray Vinopal (5-10, 200, Sr.)

Specialists

P	Ryan Winslow (6-5, 205, Fr.)
K	Chris Blewitt (5-9, 170, So.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

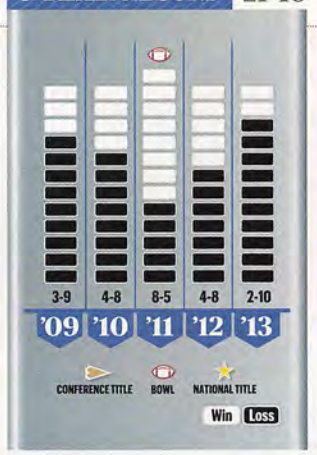
1. **Alex Bookser,** OL ★★★★
2. **Adonis Jennings,** WR ★★★★
3. **Chris James,** RB ★★★

This Panthers class has some very nice pieces. Bookser was one of the top overall prospects in the Pittsburgh area, which is always critical for Pitt to recruit well. Jennings is a 6-3, 190-pound, big-bodied receiver who was committed to Rutgers. James, Buffalo star Qadree Ollison and local talent Dennis Briggs give the Panthers a nice trio of running backs. Safety Patrick Amara from West Philly and 6-6 passer Adam Bertke from Ohio are two nice prospects who may not have gotten the national-level offer sheet, but they could be excellent. This class ranked only No. 44 nationally.

VINOPAL: KEITH SRAKOCIC / AP

VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

5-YEAR RECORD 21-40



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	David Watford (6-2, 205, Jr.)
TB	Kevin Parks (5-8, 205, Sr.)
LT	Michael Mooney (6-6, 290, So.)
LG	Conner Davis (6-5, 300, Sr.)
C	Jackson Matteo (6-5, 290, So.)
RG	Jay Whitmire (6-6, 310, Jr.)
RT	Eric Smith (6-5, 295, So.)
TE	Jake McGee (6-6, 250, Sr.)
WR	Keeon Johnson (6-3, 215, So.)
WR	Darius Jennings (5-11, 175, Sr.)
WR	Miles Gooch (6-3, 230, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Mike Moore (6-4, 270, Jr.)
DT	Donte Wilkins (6-2, 290, So.)
DT	David Dean (6-1, 290, Jr.)
DE	Eli Harold (6-4, 235, Jr.)
SLB	Max Valles (6-5, 240, So.)
MLB	Henry Coley (6-2, 230, Sr.)
WLB	Daquan Romero (6-1, 235, Sr.)
CB	Demetrious Nicholson (5-11, 185, Sr.)
CB	DreQuan Hoskey (6-0, 180, Sr.)
SS	Anthony Harris (6-1, 190, Sr.)
FS	Brandon Phelps (6-0, 185, Sr.)

Specialists

P	Alec Vozenilek (5-10, 200, Sr.)
K	Ian Frye (6-6, 200, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Quin Blanding,** S ★★★★★
2. **Andrew Brown,** DT ★★★★★
3. **Jamil Kamara,** WR ★★★★

Thanks to the efforts of ace recruiter Chip West and head coach Mike London, the Cavaliers signed the No. 1 safety prospect in the country in Blanding and the top defensive tackle in Brown, plus Kamara and others to finish with the nation's No. 32 class. All three players, from the talent-rich Tidewater area of Virginia, should compete for playing time and possibly starting jobs. Running back Jordan Ellis from Peachtree Ridge (Ga.) and defensive end Cory Jones of Washington (D.C.) Archbishop Carroll are two potential sleepers to watch. Jones is a rangy 6-4 edge rusher who had nearly 20 sacks as a prep senior.

Kevin Parks

Recruiting has not been a problem for Mike London at Virginia. Per Rivals, he has signed two top-30 classes nationally in the last three years, and players like five-star all-purpose back Taquan Mizzell are poised to make huge impacts for the Cavaliers.

London's challenge has been turning that talent into results. Since an eight-win season and Chick-Fil-A Bowl appearance in 2011, Virginia has regressed. The Cavaliers went 4-8 in 2012 before hitting bottom last season, going winless in the ACC while finishing with a 2-10 mark that included victories against BYU and FCS bottom-feeder VMI.

Difference-maker

Kevin Parks, RB

One of the few bright spots for the two-win Cavaliers in 2013 was Parks' breakout performance. The 5-8, 225-pound senior was Virginia's main option at running back, taking 227 handoffs for 1,031 yards and 11 touchdowns. He'll be essential as the Cavaliers seek to turn things around in a "hotseat" season for coach Mike London.

Though some of the talent from the 2014 signing class could help immediately, including five-star defensive tackle Andrew Brown and safety Quin Blanding, London is optimistic the stability gained from the return of several key veterans and the retention of the much of the coaching staff will have the Cavaliers on the upswing.

London must first settle on a quarterback, a competition that was expected to drag into the summer. David Watford threw 15 interceptions in his first year as a starter, and he'll get a push from Greyson Lambert and Matt Johns.

Whoever wins the job will lean on a rushing attack led by Kevin Parks, who ran for 1,031 yards and 11 scores last year.

Defensively, the Cavaliers welcome back top cornerback Demetrious Nicholson, who missed the last half of the 2013 season with turf toe, and safety Anthony Harris, who flirted with declaring for the NFL Draft before returning for his senior year. Defensive end Eli Harold, who led UVA with 8.5 sacks and 15 tackles for loss, can be a game-wrecker.

BOTTOM LINE

London has three years remaining on his contract, but patience is wearing thin in Charlottesville. The Cavaliers haven't beaten archrival Virginia Tech since 2003. Virginia's six wins in 2012 and 2013 represent the worst two-year stretch since 1981 and 1982, when the program won three total games. Offensive improvement is a must if Virginia is going to take a step forward. The Cavaliers ranked 109th in the FBS in scoring offense and 94th in turnover margin.

7
PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
ACC COASTAL

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	UCLA	
S.6	Richmond	
S.13	Louisville	
S.20	@ BYU	19-16
S.27	Kent State	
O.4	Pittsburgh	3-14
O.18	@ DUKE	22-35
O.25	North Carolina	14-45
N.1	@ GEORGIA TECH	25-35
N.8	@ FLORIDA STATE	
N.22	Miami (FL)	26-45
N.28	@ VIRGINIA TECH	6-16

COACH

Mike London
Fifth year (18-31)
Career record: 42-36

Offensive coordinator: Steve Fairchild (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Jon Tenuta (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 2-10
Stadium: Scott Stadium (61,500)
Tickets: 800-542-UVA1
Site: Charlottesville, Va.
Website: virginiasports.com
Twitter: @UVa_Football

PARKS: STEVE HELBER / AP

BIG

PROJECTED FINISH

EAST

1. **OHIO STATE** — Bowl Projection: Cotton Bowl
2. **MICHIGAN STATE** — Bowl Projection: Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl
3. **MICHIGAN** — Bowl Projection: Holiday Bowl
4. **PENN STATE**
5. **INDIANA** — Bowl Projection: Detroit Bowl
6. **MARYLAND** — Bowl Projection: Armed Forces Bowl
7. **RUTGERS**

WEST

1. **NEBRASKA** — Bowl Projection: Capital One Bowl
2. **WISCONSIN** — Bowl Projection: Outback Bowl
3. **MINNESOTA** — Bowl Projection: Fight Hunger Bowl
4. **IOWA** — Bowl Projection: Pinstripe Bowl
5. **NORTHWESTERN** — Bowl Projection: Heart of Dallas Bowl
6. **ILLINOIS**
7. **PURDUE**

Kenny Bell

Terps and Scarlet Knights joining the fun mean two more easy wins and better ratings

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY | *SN Correspondent*

There is still a chance the Big Ten will allow its ranks to swell to 16 teams someday, but if the conference must remain in its current configuration, things should be just fine.

Rutgers and Maryland join the gang this year, giving the league—and more importantly, the Big Ten Network—access to millions of East Coast households. In honor of the new arrivals, the conference junked its silly Leaders and Legends divisional designation in favor of more reasonable East and West appellations. ("Beers" and "Brats" would have been another sensible solution.)

It should be a while before either the Terps or Scarlet Knights is able to compete for conference primacy, if either ever does. But their presence has less to do with any on-field pop they might bring and more with their locations. Not only will there be a significantly larger Big Ten footprint to sell to networks in advance of the 2016 TV contact renewal, but there will also be greater recruiting channels available. That helps a lot, especially with the demise of the Big East. The Big Ten is strong, influential and rich. That isn't a bad combination.

The on-field product is getting better, too. Even though there isn't any mistaking the Big Ten for the SEC, Ohio State is moving forward under Urban Meyer's big-time model and forcing the rest of the conference to come with it—or risk being left way behind. No team in the league is perfect; even the Buckeyes have to retool their offensive line and secondary. But there are many ways to measure health, and the Big Ten gets glowing report cards in many of them.

Michigan State will again be tough enough to warrant major bowl consideration, if not a spot in the College Football Playoff. Wisconsin plans on another season of hammering away at opponents. And Michigan can't flounder around forever, can it? Minnesota's on the rise. It won't be long before Penn State is a big factor again under new coach James Franklin. And come 2016, everybody in the conference will be grabbing even more money. That should be enough to make several other schools think about joining the fun.

TRENDING

Three stories to watch

1 New Faces, Last Places? Rutgers and Maryland come to the Big Ten with great population centers and entries into fertile recruiting areas, but can either team win a league game against someone besides the other?

RECRUITING RANKINGS

by Steve Wiltfong, 247Sports

247 COMPOSITE

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL PLAYERS	★★★★★ 5-STAR RECRUITS	★★★★ 4-STAR RECRUITS	★★★ 3-STAR RECRUITS	POINTS
1	Ohio State	23	1	15	7	296.06
2	Michigan	16	1	8	7	233.54
3	Penn State	25	0	5	20	222.38
4	Michigan State	22	1	3	18	217.41
5	Wisconsin	26	0	3	20	204.85
6	Nebraska	25	0	2	22	197.83
7	Maryland	18	1	3	11	191.15
8	Northwestern	15	0	4	10	182.10
9	Indiana	29	0	1	22	176.53
10	Iowa	22	0	0	19	172.60
11	Minnesota	21	0	1	19	169.94
12	Rutgers	25	0	0	18	165.50
13	Purdue	19	0	0	17	157.42
14	Illinois	18	0	0	14	152.35

ALL-BIG TEN

Offense

- **QB** **Braxton Miller,** Sr., Ohio State
- **RB** **Melvin Gordon,** Jr., Wisconsin
- **RB** **Ameer Abdullah,** Sr., Nebraska
- **OL** **Brandon Scherff,** Sr., Iowa
- **OL** **Jack Allen,** Jr., Michigan State
- **OL** **Rob Havenstein,** Sr., Wisconsin
- **OL** **Brandon Vitabile,** Sr., Northwestern
- **OL** **Tyler Marz,** Jr., Wisconsin
- **TE** **Jesse James,** Jr., Penn State
- **WR** **Devin Funchess,** Jr., Michigan
- **WR** **Stefon Diggs,** Jr., Maryland

Defense

- **DL** **Randy Gregory,** Jr., Nebraska
- **DL** **Michael Bennett,** Sr., Ohio State
- **DL** **Shilique Calhoun,** Jr., Michigan State
- **DL** **Carl Davis,** Sr., Iowa
- **LB** **Noah Spence,** Jr., Ohio State
- **LB** **Jake Ryan,** Sr., Michigan
- **LB** **Chi Chi Ariguzo,** Sr., Northwestern
- **CB** **Sojourn Shelton,** So., Wisconsin
- **CB** **Blake Countess,** Jr., Michigan
- **S** **Ibraheim Campbell,** Sr., Northwestern
- **S** **Kurtis Drummond,** Sr., Michigan State

Specialists

- **K** **Michael Geiger,** So., Michigan State
- **P** **Cameron Johnston,** So., Ohio State

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The QB returned to Columbus for his senior year and will bedevil defenses with his ability to run and pass. He's the perfect triggerman for the Buckeyes' spread attack.

Braxton Miller

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Gregory led the Big Ten in sacks last year and was a semifinalist for the Hendricks Award. He is fast off the edge as a pass rusher and is also able to make big plays against the run.

ASCENDING

MINNESOTA

Gophers won eight games last year and return enough to make some noise in West. Jerry Kill has built a tough team capable of hanging with anyone.

DESCENDING

MARYLAND

The Terps finished 7-5 during last regular season and played in the Military Bowl. But they step up in class in 2014 and are unlikely to enjoy similar success.

2 Rebound Ability: Michigan slumped last year, thanks to an offense that couldn't get it done on the ground and an inability to win close games. The Wolverines need to turn it around, or the grumbling could intensify.

3 Run Away: Even though Ohio State didn't win the Big Ten title last year, there is a feeling that Urban Meyer's attempts to replicate an SEC club in Big Ten country are getting closer to completion and a championship run is pending.

RATING THE BIG TEN

FASTEST RECEIVER
Kenny Bell, Nebraska
Has good hands and ability to blow past defenders.

BEST HANDS
Devin Funchess, WR, Michigan
Former tight end moves outside with eyes on catching everything.

BEST PASSING QB
Christian Hackenberg, Penn State
He may only be a sophomore, but Hackenberg has great pocket presence and a fine arm.

BEST RUNNING QB
Braxton Miller, Ohio State
Drives defenses mad with his ability to extend plays and get downfield.

MOST ELUSIVE RB
Ameer Abdullah, Nebraska
Tough to deal with at the line but murder once he gets into space.

BEST INSTINCTS
Braxton Miller, QB, Ohio State
After watching him dodge and frustrate tacklers, you begin to think he has a hyperspace button.

BEST ATHLETE
Raheem Mostert, RB, Purdue
Won the Big Ten 60- and 200-yard dash titles indoors and will play a bigger role at running back for the Boilermakers.

PLAYER MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (OFF THE FIELD)
Lane Hovey, WR, Nebraska
A Big Ten scholar-athlete, Hovey sports a 4.0 GPA in Business Administration.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Braxton Miller, QB, Ohio State
Whether he's facing a crucial third down or a ferocious pass rush, Miller stays cool.

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Randy Gregory, DE, Nebraska
He's an edge pass rusher with big-play potential and will delight NFL scouts.

TOP IMPACT FROSH
Jabrill Peppers, CB, Michigan
The Wolverines need to make more big plays, and this highly skilled corner specializes in that area.

HARDEST HITTER
Chi Chi Ariguzo, LB, Northwestern
When Ariguzo gets to the ballcarrier, he goes for maximum impact—and usually succeeds.

BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER
Mark Weisman, RB, Iowa
Former walk-on has led Iowa in rushing past two seasons.

BEST INTERVIEW
Devin Gardner, QB, Michigan
Always accessible, available and unafraid to speak his mind.

BEST COACH AS STRATEGIST
Mark Dantonio, Michigan State
The Spartan boss proved in last year's Big Ten title game that he can concoct a great gameplan.

BEST COACH AS RECRUITER
Urban Meyer, Ohio State
The Buckeyes have transformed the type of athlete coming into the Big Ten by landing SEC-style players.

HOTTEST SEAT
Bo Pelini, Nebraska
He survived some shaky moments last season, but the Huskers need big success this year, or he could be out.

BEST VENUE
Memorial Stadium, Nebraska
The Cornhuskers' home is always sold out, looks cool on the outside and keeps the fans on top of the action.

BELL: NATI HARNIK / AP; MILLER: WILFREDO LEE / AP

OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG TEN EAST
1

Michael Bennett

2014 SN NATIONAL RANK 9

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Navy*	
S.6	Virginia Tech	
S.13	Kent State	
S.27	Cincinnati	
O.4	@ MARYLAND	
O.18	Rutgers	
O.25	@ PENN STATE	63-14
N.1	Illinois	60-35
N.8	@ MICHIGAN STATE	24-34
N.15	@ MINNESOTA	
N.22	Indiana	42-14
N.29	Michigan	42-41

* At Baltimore, MD

COACH
Urban Meyer
Third year (24-2)
Career record: 128-25

Offensive coordinators: Tom Herman (third year) and Ed Warinner (third year)
Defensive coordinators: Luke Fickell (10th year) and Chris Ash (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 12-2
(Lost to Clemson in the Orange Bowl, 40-35)
Stadium: Ohio Stadium (102,329)
Tickets: 614-292-2624
Site: Columbus, Ohio
Website: ohiostatebuckeyes.com
Twitter: @OhioStAthletics

There can be no denying that OSU lost some quality performers from last year's team, but there is little doubt the Buckeyes will be among the nation's top playoff contenders. Plenty returns, and coach Urban Meyer and his staff have accumulated three recruiting classes that would fit in well with the SEC.

Quarterback Braxton Miller gave a little consideration to leaving early for the NFL, but he returns for what should be a strong Heisman candidacy–despite missing the spring following shoulder surgery. He accounted for 36 touchdowns last year and joined the 2,000/1,000 club by throwing for 2,094 yards and rushing for 1,068. Miller is elusive, has a big arm and must become just a bit more accurate to be considered one of the top two or three passers in the country.

The rest of the skill brigade isn't nearly as established, thanks to the departures of top rusher Carlos Hyde (1,521 yards, 15 TDs) and main receiver Corey Brown (63 catches, 10 TDs). That doesn't mean there isn't abundant talent at the running back and receiver positions. Senior starters Devin Smith (44 catches, 8 TDs) and Evan Spencer (22, 3) return, and they will be supplemented by a speedy crop of new faces, all of whom boast outstanding pedigrees. Among the top candidates are sophomore Dontre Wilson, redshirt freshman Jalin Marshall and early enrollee Johnnie Dixon.

The prime candidate to replace Hyde is sophomore Ezekiel Elliott, who gained 262 yards last year and has great speed. Fifth-year senior Rod Smith is a bruising counterpart. It might take a while for the ground game to get going because the Bucks must replace four offensive line starters. The lone holdover is junior Taylor Decker, who will move from right to left tackle. Sophomore Pat Elflein saw

Difference-maker
Michael Bennett, DT

Ohio State's starting defensive line posted 24.5 sacks and 43.5 tackles for loss in 2013. Anchoring the interior was Bennett, who contributed 7.0 and 11.5 in those respective categories as well as 42 tackles. The physical and aggressive Bennett increased his individual dominance by adding three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries. The Buckeyes' offense should be one of the nation's elite, but the defense needs to carry its weight, and that starts with Bennett, the anchor up front.

BENNETT: JAY LAPRETE / AP

action late in the year at guard after Marcus Hall was tossed from the Michigan game. It will be interesting to see what Antonio Underwood does at guard after missing last year with a knee injury, while either Jacoby Boren or powerful Billy Price will compete for the center position, and Darryl Baldwin is a leading candidate at right tackle.

As unsettled as the offensive line is, that's how steady things are on the other side of the ball. All four starters return, and there is good depth behind them. Junior first-team all-Big Ten end Noah Spence had 14.5 tackles for loss and eight sacks last year, while Joey Bosa (13.5, 7.5) is a stalwart at the other end, and seniors Joel Hale and Michael Bennett are formidable inside.

The loss of 2013 leading tackler and All-American Ryan Shazier leaves a hole in the linebacking corps a year early, but senior Curtis Grant and junior Joshua Perry return as starters. Expect to see sophomore Trey Johnson and junior Camren Williams in the rotation, but watch out for true freshman Raekwon McMillan, who was one of the nation's most highly regarded recruits.

Three members of last year's secondary are gone, making the Buckeyes potentially vulnerable on the back end. The sole returning starter is senior corner Doran Grant, who picked off three passes in 2013. Junior Armani Reeves picked up some starting experience last year, including in the Orange Bowl. Cam Burrows, a sophomore, should see time at safety, along with sophomores Vonn Bell, who made seven tackles in the bowl game, and Tyvis Powell.

Sophomore Cameron Johnston averaged 44.0 yards per punt last year and has a bright future, but the Buckeyes need a new kicker. Senior Kyle Clinton and freshman Sean Nuernberger will vie for the spot.

BOTTOM LINE

The Buckeyes are loaded with talent all over the roster. Some of it is proven, like Miller and the defensive line, but a lot of it must deliver consistently after showing flashes or waiting patiently. No team in the Big Ten can match OSU's speed and athletic ability. If the back end of the defense and the offensive line come together, look out.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247SPORTS

The Buckeyes signed the nation's No. 3 recruiting class, which also topped the Big Ten, bringing in 23 prospects, 18 ranking at least four stars by either 247Sports or the industry-generated 247Sports Composite Ratings. Coach Urban Meyer has not been happy with his overall linebacker play since arriving in Columbus, and he continued to upgrade at the position in this class. Five-star Raekwon McMillan was the nation's top-ranked inside linebacker and in-staters Dante Booker, Kyle Berger and Sam Hubbard are all highly regarded. Strong linebacker play next fall could mean a special season for Ohio State. More speed and playmakers are coming on offense in athlete Curtis Samuel, receiver Johnnie Dixon, receiver Parris Campbell, receiver Terry McLaurin and athlete Noah Brown all being home-run threats.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Raekwon McMillan, LB ★★★★★
2. Damon Webb, CB ★★★★
3. Marshon Lattimore, CB ★★★★

MILLER: JAY LAPRETE / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Braxton Miller	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	12	158.1	162-255-7	63.5	2094	24	174.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Braxton Miller	12	171	1068	6.2	12	89.0

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Devin Smith	14	44	660	15.0	8	47.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Joshua Perry	14	38	26	64

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Noah Spence	13	8.0	67

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Doran Grant	3	40	13.3	1

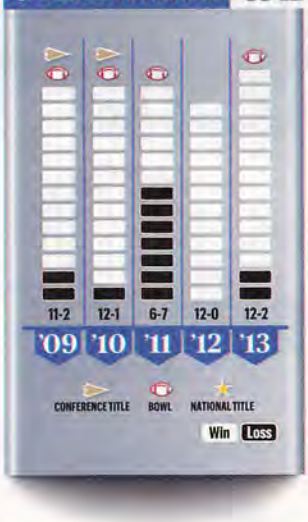
Braxton Miller

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	OSU	OPP
SCORING	637	317
Points Per Game	45.5	22.6
FIRST DOWNS	361	283
Rushing	216	102
Passing	126	166
Penalty	19	15
RUSHING YARDAGE	4321	1532
Yards gained rushing	4606	1908
Yards lost rushing	285	376
Rushing Attempts	635	466
Average Per Rush	6.8	3.3
Average Per Game	308.6	109.4
TDs Rushing	45	9
PASSING YARDAGE	2846	3752
Comp-Att-Int	238-368-9	330-534-16
Average Per Pass	7.7	7.0
Average Per Catch	12.0	11.4
Average Per Game	203.3	268.0
TDs Passing	38	31
TOTAL OFFENSE	7167	5284
Total Plays	1003	1000
Average Per Play	7.1	5.3
Average Per Game	511.9	377.4
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	29-658	74-1361
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	30-243	7-115
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-197	9-60
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.7	18.4
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.1	16.4
INT RETURN AVG.	12.3	6.7
FUMBLES-LOST	18-10	17-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	73-638	77-621
Average Per Game	45.6	44.4
PUNTS-YARDS	49-2156	79-3182
Average Per Punt	44.0	40.3
Net punt average	40.8	36.4
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:18	28:42
3RD-DOWN CONV.	79/169	73/205
3rd-Down Pct.	47%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	14/22	13/24
4th-Down Pct.	64%	54%
SACKS BY-YARDS	42-292	22-136
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	87	42
FG-ATTEMPTS	9-10	9-12
ATTENDANCE	734528	318826
Games/Avg Per Game	7/104933	5/63765
Neutral Site Games		2/69041

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Ohio State	229	169	149	90	0	637
Opponent	69	94	55	99	0	317

5-YEAR RECORD 53-12



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Braxton Miller (6-2, 215, Sr.)
	Cardale Jones (6-5, 250, Fr.)
RB	Ezekiel Elliott (6-0, 225, So.)
	Curtis Samuel (5-11, 190, Fr.)
LT	Taylor Decker (6-7, 315, Jr.)
	Kyle Dodson (6-6, 310, So.)
LG	Joel Hale (6-4, 310, Sr.)
	Antonio Underwood (6-2, 303, Jr.)
C	Jacoby Boren (6-1, 285, Jr.)
	Billy Price (6-4, 305, Fr.)
RG	Pat Elflein (6-3, 300, So.)
	Tommy Brown (6-4, 310, Jr.)
RT	Darryl Baldwin (6-6, 307, Sr.)
	Evan Lisle (6-6, 300, Fr.)
WR	Evan Spencer (6-2, 208, Sr.)
	Michael Thomas (6-3, 203, So.)
WR	Corey Smith (6-0, 190, Jr.)
	Jeff Greene (6-5, 220, Jr.)
WR	Devin Smith (6-1, 197, Sr.)
	Johnnie Dixon (5-11, 198, Fr.)
WR	Dontre Wilson (5-10, 185, So.)
	Jalin Marshall (5-11, 205, Fr.)

Defense

DE	Noah Spence (6-3, 252, Jr.)
	Steve Miller (6-3, 255, Sr.)
DT	Adolphus Washington (6-4, 288, Jr.)
	Donovan Munger (6-4, 306, Fr.)
NT	Michael Bennett (6-2, 288, Sr.)
	Tommy Schutt (6-2, 300, Jr.)
DE	Joey Bosa (6-5, 285, So.)
	Tyquan Lewis (6-3, 260, Fr.)
OLB	Darron Lee (6-2, 225, Fr.)
	Chris Worley (6-2, 218, Fr.)
MLB	Curtis Grant (6-3, 240, Sr.)
	Camren Williams (6-1, 228, Jr.)
OLB	Joshua Perry (6-4, 250, Jr.)
	Trey Johnson (6-1, 225, So.)
CB	Doran Grant (5-11, 193, Sr.)
	Gareon Conley (6-0, 190, Fr.)
CB	Armani Reeves (5-10, 198, Jr.)
	Eli Apple (6-1, 195, Fr.)
S	Tyvis Powell (6-3, 205, So.)
	Ron Tanner (6-0, 205, Jr.)
S	Cam Burrows (6-0, 208, So.)
	Vonn Bell (5-11, 200, So.)

Specialists

K	Kyle Clinton (6-1, 218, Sr.)
P	Cameron Johnston (6-0, 195, So.)

Sporting News All-American

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG TEN EAST
2

2014 SN NATIONAL RANK 12

Shilique Calhoun

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Jacksonville State	
S.6	@ OREGON	
S.20	Eastern Michigan	
S.27	Wyoming	
O.4	Nebraska	41-28
O.11	@ PURDUE	14-0
O.18	@ INDIANA	42-28
O.25	Michigan	29-6
N.8	Ohio State	34-24
N.15	@ MARYLAND	
N.22	Rutgers	
N.29	@ PENN STATE	

COACH

Mark Dantonio
Eighth year (64-29)
Career record: 82-46

Offensive coordinators:
Jim Bollman (second year)
Dave Warner (second year)
Defensive coordinator:
Pat Narduzzi (eighth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 13-1
(Beat Stanford in the Rose Bowl, 24-20)
Stadium: Spartan Stadium (75,005)
Tickets: 800-GO-STATE
Site: East Lansing, Mich.
Website: msuspartans.com
Twitter: @MSU_Football

The Spartans had a good recruiting class, most notably defensive lineman Malik McDowell, but their largest pickup during the offseason didn't involve a newcomer. Instead, defensive coordinator Pat Narduzzi, whose outfit was the nastiest in the country last year, decided against taking one of the several head-coaching jobs for which he was mentioned and stuck around East Lansing–with a big raise in pay, of course.

It's a good thing Narduzzi is back, because the Spartans have some work to do on that side of the ball, thanks to the departures of standout corner Darqueze Dennard, linebacker Max Bullough, leading tackler Denicos Allen and both starting defensive tackles. It's nothing Narduzzi hasn't faced before, and although MSU might not be among the nation's top five in just about every major defensive category again, it will most certainly be stout on the defensive side of the ball.

Leading the way are ends Shilique Calhoun, a junior who topped the team last year with 7.5 sacks, and Marcus Rush. Senior Taiwan Jones has moved from the weak side to the middle, taking Bullough's linebacker spot, with junior Darien Harris moving into his slot. Trae Waynes, a junior who started every game last year at boundary corner, is back after picking off three passes in 2013. Kurtis Drummond, a senior, was second on the team in tackles last year at free safety.

Although the Spartans have some questions along the offensive line, where three starters must be replaced, there are no anticipated problems at quarterback, where junior Connor Cook returns. This time last year, everyone was wondering whether Andrew

Difference-maker

Shilique Calhoun, DE

Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year. Second-Team All-American. First-Team All-Big Ten. Need more? Fourteen tackles for loss, 7.5 sacks, an interception returned 56 yards for a touchdown, 18 hurries, two forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries with two returned for touchdowns–as a sophomore. Calhoun is a big play waiting to happen for Sparty.

CALHOUN: ANDREW A. NELLES / AP

Maxwell would become more reliable. He didn't, and Cook took over early on during the season. All he did was throw for 2,755 yards and 22 scores against only six interceptions. He'll need to improve his 58.7-percent completion rate, but Cook has good size and is mobile.

He'll be aided by the return of senior tailback Jeremy Langford, who rushed for 1,422 yards and 18 touchdowns last season. He's backed up by senior Nick Hill (344 yards) and a crew of talented youngsters waiting for their turn as MSU's featured back. Tony Lippett (44 catches), Macgarrett Kings (43), Aaron Burbridge (22) and Keith Mumphery give Cook plenty of targets from which to choose.

There are three starters gone from the O-line, but the Spartans should be all right once the season gets rolling. Junior center Jack Allen was a second-team All-Big Ten choice last year, and sophomore left tackle Jack Conklin had a great first season, starting the last 10 games of the year. Expect to see senior Travis Jackson at left guard–he started there during the Rose Bowl–while classmate Connor Kruse is expected to be the right guard after playing all over the line during his previous three seasons. The Spartans had hoped junior-college recruit David Hedelin would take over right tackle, but he switched his commitment to Purdue, so junior Donavon Clark, who started four times last season at left tackle, gets the first look there.

Senior Mike Sadler had a solid season last year, averaging 42.5 yards per punt, and sophomore Michael Geiger converted 15 of 16 field goal tries, including all eight from 40-49 yards.

BOTTOM LINE

The Spartans will once again be a team that plays rugged defense and depends on a dominant ground game to control the clock. Cook's return ensures Michigan State will have a balanced attack, but don't expect an offensive free-for-all. The Spartans will always be run-first under Mark Dantonio. The defense needs some young people to step up, but Narduzzi will craft his usual stout unit. The key to the season will be the Nov. 8 matchup with Ohio State in East Lansing that should be for the division title.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

After a lengthy delay spurred on by his parents refusing to sign his letter-of-intent on National Signing Day, five-star defensive lineman McDowell finally became a Spartan on April 1 after his parents relented to his wishes. The Detroit product and U.S. Army All-American leads the way in this talented class of defensive linemen that includes four-star tackle Evans, who spurned in-state Wisconsin for MSU, and Enoch Smith Jr. and Robert Bowers. No program recruited Chicago better in 2014 than the Rose Bowl champs, with the biggest get being All-America center Brian Allen, the younger brother of current Spartan Jack Allen. McDowell's eventual inclusion made Michigan State's class No. 25 nationally and No. 4 in the Big Ten.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Malik McDowell, DL ★★★★★
2. Montae Nicholson, S ★★★★
3. Craig Evans, DT ★★★★

COOK: MARK J. TERRILL / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Connor Cook	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	14	135.5	223-380-6	58.7	2755	22	196.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jeremy Langford	14	292	1422	4.9	18	101.6

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Tony Lippett	14	44	613	13.9	2	43.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Kurtis Drummond	14	49	42	91

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Shilique Calhoun	14	7.5	45

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Kurtis Drummond	4	55	13.8	1

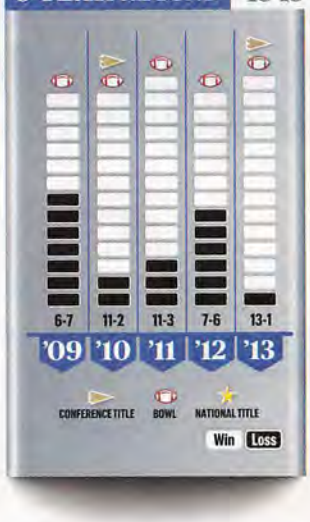
Connor Cook

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	MICH ST	OPP
SCORING	411	185
Points Per Game	29.4	13.2
FIRST DOWNS	293	200
Rushing	132	64
Passing	141	110
Penalty	20	26
RUSHING YARDAGE	2433	1212
Yards gained rushing	2747	1632
Yards lost rushing	314	420
Rushing Attempts	569	425
Average Per Rush	4.3	2.9
Average Per Game	173.8	86.6
TDs Rushing	23	8
PASSING YARDAGE	2964	2319
Comp-Att-Int	248-430-7	213-448-17
Average Per Pass	6.9	5.2
Average Per Catch	12.0	10.9
Average Per Game	211.7	165.6
TDs Passing	23	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	5397	3531
Total Plays	999	873
Average Per Play	5.4	4.0
Average Per Game	385.5	252.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	18-345	45-953
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	36-353	18-120
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	17-166	7-99
KICK RETURN AVG.	19.2	21.2
PUNT RETURN AVG.	9.8	6.7
INT RETURN AVG.	9.8	14.1
FUMBLES-LOST	10-8	22-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	76-706	72-646
Average Per Game	50.4	46.1
PUNTS-YARDS	76-3233	95-4115
Average Per Punt	42.5	43.3
Net punt average	38.6	38.3
TIME OF POSS./GAME	33:19	26:37
3RD-DOWN CONV.	94/213	57/204
3rd-Down Pct.	44%	28%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/14	6/19
4th-Down Pct.	64%	32%
SACKS BY-YARDS	32-207	17-127
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	51	21
FG-ATTEMPTS	19-22	13-18
ATTENDANCE	506294	326600
Games/Avg Per Game	7/72328	5/65320
Neutral Site Games		2/80588

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Michigan State	51	148	100	112	0	411
Opponent	39	74	42	30	0	185

5-YEAR RECORD 48-19



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Connor Cook (6-4, 219, Jr.)
	Tyler O'Connor (6-3, 219, So.)
RB	Jeremy Langford (6-0, 205, Sr.)
	Nick Hill (5-8, 197, Sr.)
LT	Jack Conklin (6-6, 330, So.)
	Dennis Finley (6-6, 307, RFr.)
LG	Travis Jackson (6-3, 286, Sr.)
	Zach Higgins (6-4, 315, So.)
C	Jack Allen (6-1, 300, Jr.)
	Connor Kruse (6-4, 317, Sr.)
RG	Connor Kruse (6-4, 317, Sr.)
	Benny McGowan(6-3, 319, So.)
RT	Donavon Clark (6-3, 310, Jr.)
	Kodi Kieler (6-5, 309, So.)
TE	Andrew Gleichert (6-5, 264, Sr.)
	Josiah Price (6-4, 244, So.)
WR	Keith Mumphery (6-0, 212, Sr.)
	R.J. Shelton (5-11, 200, So.)
WR	MacGarrett Kings (5-10, 186, Jr.)
	Matt Macksood (5-11, 197, So.)
WR	Tony Lippett (6-3, 190, Sr.)
	Aaron Burbridge (6-1, 203, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Shilique Calhoun (6-4, 257, Jr.)
	Demetrius Cooper (6-5, 239, RFr.)
DT	Joel Heath (6-6, 289, Jr.)
	James Kittredge (6-4, 295, Sr.)
NT	Damon Knox (6-4, 275, Jr.)
	Brandon Clemons (6-3, 295, Jr.)
DE	Marcus Rush (6-2, 255, Sr.)
	Lawrence Thomas (6-3, 294, Jr.)
OLB	Damien Harris (6-0, 228, Jr.)
	Mylan Hicks (5-11, 199, Sr.)
MLB	Taiwan Jones (6-3, 252, Sr.)
	Jon Reschke (6-2, 234, RFr.)
OLB	Ed Davis (6-3, 230, Jr.)
	Riley Bullough (6-2, 233, So.)
CB	Darian Hicks (5-10, 181, So.)
	Jermaine Edmondson (6-0, 178, So.)
CB	Trae Waynes (6-1, 183, Jr.)
	Arje Colquhoun (6-1, 193, Jr.)
S	Kurtis Drummond (6-1, 200, Sr.)
	Demetrious Cox (6-1, 200, So.)
S	RJ Williamson (6-0, 215, Jr.)
	Jalyn Powell (5-11, 206, RFr.)

Specialists

K	Michael Geiger (5-8, 186, So.)
P	Mike Sadler (6-0, 170, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG TEN EAST
3

Blake Countess

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Appalachian State	
S.6	@ NOTRE DAME	41-30
S.13	Miami (OH)	
S.20	Utah	
S.27	Minnesota	42-13
O.4	@ RUTGERS	
O.11	Penn State	40-43
O.25	@ MICHIGAN STATE	6-29
N.1	Indiana	63-47
N.8	@ NORTHWESTERN	27-19
N.22	Maryland	
N.29	@ OHIO STATE	41-42

COACH
Brady Hoke
Fourth year (26-13)
Career record: 73-63

Offensive coordinator: Doug Nussmeier (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Greg Mattison (fourth year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Lost to Kansas State in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, 31-14)
Stadium: Michigan Stadium (109,901)
Tickets: 866-296-MTIX
Site: Ann Arbor, Mich.
Website: mgoblue.com
Twitter: @umichfootball

After a season in which the Wolverines did not resemble at all the successful, hard-nosed ancestors coach Brady Hoke invoked when he took over the team, they must reestablish their identity quickly or risk losing even more ground to rivals Ohio State and Michigan State. After a spring practice to which Hoke gave mixed reviews, Michigan enters the 2014 season as one of the nation's biggest question marks.

Wolverine fans can take some cheer from the fact that this remains an extremely young team that is loaded with players who have seen two or fewer years of action. But patience is not abundant in Ann Arbor, and Hoke can't keep himself popular by preaching patience. That's a big reason for the arrival of new offensive coordinator Doug Nussmeier, who comes from Alabama with a reputation for developing a stout ground attack. That's something Michigan didn't have last season. The Wolverines ranked 102nd in the nation running the football and managed a feeble 3.3 yards per carry.

The biggest culprit was an offensive line that could not develop continuity. Not that things will necessarily be better this year. Gone are starting tackles Taylor Lewan and Michael Schofield, and returning is a crop of young hopefuls who gained experience last year but didn't necessarily distinguish themselves. That's where Nussmeier comes in. He must build a cohesive, physical unit. Junior Graham Glasgow is expected to be a stalwart at either center or guard, the two positions at which he divided 13 starts last year.

If Glasgow plays guard, redshirt freshman Patrick Kugler will likely handle the pivot. Sophomores Kyle Bosch and Kyle Kalis are the other guard candidates. Sophomore Erik Magnuson missed much of spring practice with a shoulder injury, but he should be at left tackle for the opener, while classmate Ben Braden is the likely right tackle.

Running behind them will be sophomores Derrick Green and De'Veon Smith, neither of whom distinguished himself all that much last year. A heralded recruit, Green is 20 pounds lighter than he was last year and looked good in the spring. Justice Hayes is a short-yardage specialist, while Drake Johnson, who missed all but one game last year with an injury, has potential.

The Wolverines hope that fifth-year senior Devin Gardner will display the kind of consistency needed for the team to contend for a division title. Gardner looked great in some games (Notre Dame, Ohio State) and overwhelmed in others (Michigan State, Iowa). He has the ability to stress defenses with his arms and feet but must become a better decision maker. It will be interesting to see who emerges as top receivers for the team, with Jeremy Gallon (89 catches, 9 TDs) gone. Junior Devin Funchess (49, 6) has moved from tight end to the outside and has a lot of potential. Sophomore Jehu Chesson (15, 1) returns, as does Amara Darboh, who missed last year with

Difference-maker
Blake Countess, CB

Pick your poison with Michigan's cornerbacks. While Countess finished tied for first in the Big Ten with six interceptions, Raymon Taylor had four picks himself to go along with nine passes broken up. Countess recorded 169 interception-return yards (28.2 average) while Taylor led the team in tackles with 86.

COUNTESS: TONY DING / AP

a foot injury. Coaches were impressed by the play of true freshman Freddy Canteen during spring ball. Sophomore tight end Jake Butt had a solid debut but will be out until at least the Big Ten season with a torn ACL.

Although the defense didn't look that bad statistically, it was still extremely vulnerable at times and must get better, particularly up front. Ends Frank Clark and Brennen Beyer are stalwarts on the outside but must become more consistent. Sophomore Willie Henry, who started the last six games of 2013 and showed an ability to get into enemy backfields, should be one tackle, while Ondre Pipkins, who missed eight games last year with a torn ACL, and Chris Wormley are in the mix for the other spot.

Jake Ryan, who battled back from a torn ACL to play eight games at outside linebacker last year, has moved into the middle and should be a big-time playmaker. Junior James Ross is an athletic outside man, while senior Desmond Morgan and junior Joe Bolden are also accomplished performers. The defensive backfield has to replace two starters, but junior Blake Countess (6 interceptions) and senior Raymon Taylor are solid on the outside, while junior Jarrod Wilson made 50 tackles at safety last year. The arrival of five-star corner Jabrill Peppers should help the secondary's big-play ability.

Matt Wile punted and kicked off last year, and could add placement duties to his resume now that kicker Brendan Gibbons is gone. Will Hagerup, who had a big 2012 punting, returns after a year away from the program and could reclaim his old job.

BOTTOM LINE

This is a big year for Hoke and Michigan. If the Wolverines don't return to their previous status as Big Ten contenders, they risk losing significant ground to divisional foes Ohio State and Michigan State. Michigan must become a successful running team again and bolster its defensive front seven. Meanwhile, Gardner has to become a reliable triggerman for the offense and demonstrate the consistency winning teams need.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Five-star Jabrill Peppers was the jewel of the Big Ten, ranking as the nation's top athlete recruit and No. 3 prospect overall. There's no question Peppers could be a difference-maker on offense, and perhaps he will, but the pride of New Jersey will begin his career at cornerback for the Wolverines. Don't rule out the role of return-man extraordinaire for the talented recruit who also has the personality to one day be the most famous player in college football. Michigan signed 16 in 2014, a class that ranked No. 20 nationally and No. 2 in the Big Ten. At 6-4 and 338 pounds, Mone brings a unique size and ability to a Wolverines defensive line that struggled in 2013.

Receivers Drake Harris and Maurice Ways and tight end Ian Bunting add more size and versatility to the Wolverines passing game. Mason Cole comes in as one of the country's top interior offensive linemen, as no program has recruited better at the point of attack on offense than Michigan since Brady Hoke arrived in Ann Arbor.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Jabrill Peppers, ATH ★★★★★
2. Drake Harris, WR ★★★★
3. Bryan Mone, DT ★★★★

GARDNER: CHARLIE NEIBERGALL / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Devin Gardner	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	12	146.1	208-345-11	60.3	2960	21	246.7

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Devin Gardner	12	165	483	2.9	11	40.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Devin Funchess	13	49	748	15.3	6	57.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Raymon Taylor	13	61	25	86

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Frank Clark	13	4.5	26

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Blake Countess	6	169	28.2	1

Devin Gardner

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	MICH	OPP
SCORING	419	349
Points Per Game	32.2	26.8
FIRST DOWNS	266	255
Rushing	100	108
Passing	149	138
Penalty	17	9
RUSHING YARDAGE	1634	1822
Yards gained rushing	2144	2131
Yards lost rushing	510	309
Rushing Attempts	498	478
Average Per Rush	3.3	3.8
Average Per Game	125.7	140.2
TDs Rushing	27	14
PASSING YARDAGE	3221	3007
Comp-Att-Int	237-395-13	243-434-17
Average Per Pass	8.2	6.9
Average Per Catch	13.6	12.4
Average Per Game	247.8	231.3
TDs Passing	21	23
TOTAL OFFENSE	4855	4829
Total Plays	893	912
Average Per Play	5.4	5.3
Average Per Game	373.5	371.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	51-1128	34-792
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	17-114	28-178
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	17-322	13-179
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.1	23.3
PUNT RETURN AVG.	6.7	6.4
INT RETURN AVG.	18.9	13.8
FUMBLES-LOST	22-8	15-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	54-448	62-522
Average Per Game	34.5	40.2
PUNTS-YARDS	62-2527	61-2403
Average Per Punt	40.8	39.4
Net punt average	37.2	35.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:17	28:43
3RD-DOWN CONV.	71/181	76/191
3rd-Down Pct.	39%	40%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/13	6/15
4th-Down Pct.	54%	40%
SACKS BY-YARDS	25-182	36-270
MISC YARDS	-3	-7
TDS SCORED	52	40
FG-ATTEMPTS	18-25	24-31
ATTENDANCE	781144	339932
Games/Avg Per Game	7/111592	5/67986
Neutral Site Games		1/53284

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Michigan	99	89	101	106	24	419
Opponent	85	74	77	94	19	349

5-YEAR RECORD 38-26

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Devin Gardner (6-4, 218, Sr.)
	Shane Morris (6-3, 202, So.)
FB	Joe Kerridge (6-0, 247, Jr.)
	Sione Houma (6-0, 240, Jr.)
RB	De'Veon Smith (5-11, 223, So.)
	Derrick Green (5-11, 227, So.)
LT	Erik Magnuson (6-6, 295, So.)
	Mason Cole (6-5, 284, Fr.)
LG	Kyle Bosch (6-5, 301, So.)
	David Dawson (6-4, 295, Fr.)
C	Graham Glasgow (6-6, 308, Jr.)
	Patrick Kugler (6-5, 295, Fr.)
RG	Kyle Kalis (6-5, 304, So.)
	Dan Samuelson (6-5, 282, Fr.)
RT	Ben Braden (6-6, 319, So.)
	Blake Bars (6-5, 290, So.)
TE	A.J. Williams (6-6, 263, Jr.)
	Keith Heitzman (6-3, 271, Jr.)
WR	Freddy Canteen (6-1, 170, Fr.)
	Da'Mario Jones (6-2, 198, So.)
WR	Devin Funchess (6-4, 218, Jr.)
	Jehu Chesson (6-3, 195, So.)

Defense

DE	Frank Clark (6-2, 270, Sr.)
	Mario Ojemudia (6-2, 250, Jr.)
DT	Willie Henry (6-2, 297, So.)
	Matt Godin (6-6, 283, So.)
NT	Ondre Pipkins (6-3, 313, Jr.)
	Ryan Glasgow (6-4, 297, So.)
DE	Brennen Beyer (6-3, 256, Sr.)
	Taco Charlton (6-6, 275, So.)
OLB	James Ross (6-1, 225, Jr.)
	Royce Jenkins-Stone (6-2, 221, Jr.)
MLB	Jake Ryan (6-3, 235, Sr.)
	Mike McCray (6-4, 242, Fr.)
OLB	Desmond Morgan (6-1, 232, Sr.)
	Joe Bolden (6-3, 225, Jr.)
CB	Blake Countess (5-10, 183, Jr.)
	Jourdan Lewis (5-10, 174, So.)
CB	Raymon Taylor (5-10, 182, Sr.)
	Terry Richardson (5-9, 172, So.)
S	Jarrod Wilson (6-2, 202, Jr.)
	Delano Hill (6-0, 205, So.)
S	Dymonte Thomas (6-2, 191, So.)
	Jeremy Clark (6-4, 206, So.)

Specialists

K	Matt Wile (6-2, 223, Sr.)
P	Will Hagerup (6-4, 225, Sr.)

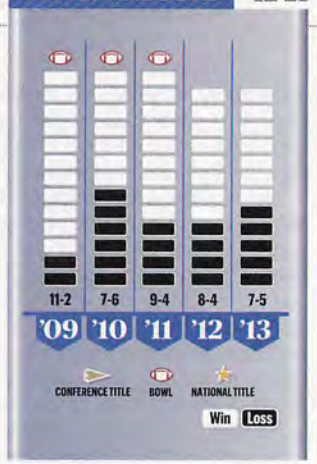
Sporting News All-American

PENN STATE
NITTANY LIONS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG TEN EAST
4

Christian Hackenberg

5-YEAR RECORD 42-21



2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	UCF*	31-34
S.6	Akron	
S.13	@ RUTGERS	
S.20	Massachusetts	
S.27	Northwestern	
O.11	@ MICHIGAN	43-40
O.25	Ohio State	14-63
N.1	Maryland	
N.8	@ INDIANA	24-44
N.15	Temple	
N.22	@ ILLINOIS	24-17
N.29	Michigan State	

* At Dublin, Ireland

COACH
James Franklin
First year
Career record: 24-15

Offensive coordinator: John Donovan (first year)
Defensive coordinators: Bob Shoop (first year)
Brent Pry (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 7-5
Stadium: Beaver Stadium (106,572)
Tickets: 800-NITTANY
Site: State College, Pa.
Website: gopsusports.com
Twitter: @PennStateFball

Nittany Lion fans may not be overjoyed that Bill O'Brien left the program after two years for an NFL gig, but they can't be too upset since O'Brien squired the program through the toughest part of the post-Paterno probationary period. That means former Vanderbilt boss James Franklin doesn't have to build a foundation as he takes over. There are still sanctions in place, which means no bowl game this season (unless the NCAA relents), but PSU is hardly bereft of talent.

What it lacks is quality depth, particularly along the offensive line, and that's going to hurt in the short run. The Lions are still struggling with scholarship limitations, and that's what's going to impact the program moving forward. No matter how well Franklin coaches and motivates, any substantial injuries could cripple the program.

So what does Penn State have? Start with sophomore quarterback Christian Hackenberg, whose rookie campaign featured some great growth and displayed the kind of potential that should make him one of the nation's best someday. He'll get support from senior running back Zach Zwinak, who gained 989 yards last year and scored 12 times. But there are some serious questions at the receiver spots after junior tight end Jesse James. It could fall to freshmen like Chris Godwin and Saeed Blacknall to play big roles.

The offensive front is in considerable flux, especially since senior guard Miles Dieffenbach tore his ACL during spring drills. Returning starter Donovan Smith will handle one tackle spot, while redshirt sophomore Wendy Laurent should start at center. After that, it's murky.

The defensive front is led by ends C.J. Olaniyan, who had 11 tackles for loss last year, and Deion Barnes. Mike Hull will handle middle linebacker, but there are no proven commodities around him. Senior starting safeties Ryan Keiser and Adrian Amos return, while Jordan Lucas (3 INTs last year) is a quality corner. Kicker Sam Ficken (15-of-23) struggled with field goals in 2013, and the Lions must find a new punter.

BOTTOM LINE

Penn State has talent on the roster, and the recent recruiting classes have brought in some players who will contribute this year, but the depth is wafer-thin.

Difference-maker
Christian Hackenberg, QB

While he certainly had a ready-made body at 6-4 and 220 pounds, starting the highly touted frosh would have been a once-in-a-lifetime type of decision. Penn State had opened the season with a true freshman QB just once since 1911. But Hackenberg proved it was not a coaching error, recording 2,955 yards passing and 20 touchdowns. Now he gets to run the show for an innovative new coach in James Franklin, who arrives from Vanderbilt.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Christian Hackenberg (6-4, 220, So.)
RB	Zach Zwinak (6-1, 240, Sr.)
LT	Donovan Smith (6-5, 322, Jr.)
LG	Miles Dieffenbach (6-3, 295, Sr.)
C	Wendy Laurent (6-2, 284, So.)
RG	Brian Gaia (6-3, 280, So.)
RT	Brendan Mahon (6-4, 305, Fr.)
TE	Jesse James (6-7, 257, Jr.)
WR	Geno Lewis (6-1, 201, So.)
WR	Richy Anderson (5-11, 175, So.)
WR	Matt Zanellato (6-3, 203, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Deion Barnes (6-4, 245, Jr.)
DT	Anthony Zettel (6-4, 258, Jr.)
DT	Austin Johnson (6-4, 302, So.)
DE	C.J. Olaniyan (6-3, 244, Sr.)
OLB	Nyeem Wartman (6-1, 241, So.)
MLB	Mike Hull (6-0, 227, Sr.)
OLB	Brandon Bell (6-1, 226, So.)
CB	Jordan Lucas (6-0, 193, Jr.)
CB	Trevor Williams (6-1, 187, Jr.)
S	Ryan Keiser (6-1, 205, Sr.)
S	Adrian Amos (6-0, 215, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Sam Ficken (6-2, 184, Sr.)
P	Chris Gulla (6-0, 188, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

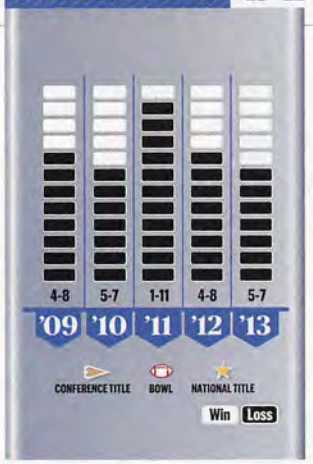
TOP SIGNEES (247 STAR RATING)
1 ▸ **Saeed Blacknall,** WR ★★★★
2 ▸ **Chris Godwin,** WR ★★★★
3 ▸ **Mike Gesicki,** TE ★★★★

Upon his hiring as the new head coach, James Franklin quickly picked up where predecessor Bill O'Brien left off. Penn State signed 24 players, a class that ranked No. 24 nationally and No. 3 in the Big Ten. The Nittany Lions bring in some weapons for former five-star quarterback Christian Hackenberg to enjoy in three four-star receivers—Saeed Blacknall, Chris Godwin and De'Andre Thompkins—and the nation's top-rated tight end, according to 247Sports, in Mike Gesicki. Defensively, junior-college lineman Tarow Barney and four-star safeties Marcus Allen and Koa Farmer were major gets.

HACKENBURG: GENE J. PUSKAR / AP

INDIANA HOOSIERS

5-YEAR RECORD 19-41



Tim Bennett

5 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH BIG TEN EAST

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Tre Roberson (6-0, 203, Jr.)
RB	Tevin Coleman (6-1, 210, Jr.)
LT	Jason Spriggs (6-7, 307, Jr.)
LG	Bernard Taylor (6-2, 307, Sr.)
C	Collin Rahrig (6-2, 290, Sr.)
RG	Dan Feeney (6-4, 305, So.)
RT	Peyton Eckert (6-6, 305, Jr.)
TE	Danny Friend (6-5, 255, So.)
WR	Isaiah Roundtree (5-11, 200, Sr.)
WR	Nick Stoner (6-1, 191, Sr.)
WR	Shane Wynn (5-7, 167, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Bobby Richardson (6-3, 288, Sr.)
DT	Adarius Rayner (6-2, 309, Jr.)
NT	Ralph Green (6-5, 325, So.)
DE	Nick Mangieri (6-5, 265, Jr.)
OLB	Flo Hardin (6-1, 230, Sr.)
MLB	T.J. Simmons (6-0, 228, Sr.)
OLB	David Cooper (6-1, 237, Sr.)
CB	Tim Bennett (5-9, 186, Sr.)
CB	Michael Hunter (6-1, 194, Jr.)
S	Antonio Allen (5-10, 205, So.)
S	Mark Murphy (6-2, 210, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Aaron Del Grosso (5-10, 195, Fr.)
P	Erich Toth (6-3, 206, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

247 STAR RATING

1. **Dominique Booth,** WR ★★★★
2. **Tegray Scales,** LB ★★★
3. **Will Dawkins,** WR ★★★

Coach Kevin Wilson and his staff landed many of their top Midwest targets in 2014 while also going back into Georgia and Florida for more talent. Indianapolis receiver Dominique Booth, a former Tennessee commit, enrolled early in Bloomington and is excited to be part of the high-powered Hoosier offense. Linebacker Tegray Scales was at the top of the board for Indiana and it beat out the likes of Oklahoma for the Buckeye State talent. Juco offensive lineman DeAndre Herron signed with Louisville out of high school, while prep school O-lineman Tim Gardner originally inked with Ohio State.

Last year's five wins represented a one-game improvement over 2012 and were four wins better than Kevin Wilson's 2011 debut. But if the Hoosiers want to do anything more than fight to escape the East cellar, they have to improve their defense, which allowed 38.8 points and 527.9 yards per game last year. In an attempt to better those desultory numbers, Wilson brought in Brian Knorr to co-coordinate the defense with William Inge, who began at IU last year. Since the Hoosiers return nine starters on defense, there is some hope.

Leading the way is senior outside linebacker David Cooper, who topped the team with 85 tackles in 2013. Senior safety Mark Murphy registered 84 stops last year and is strong against the run. There are three returning starters up front, but Ralph Green and Bobby Richardson must be tougher in the interior after IU gave up 5.4 yards per rush last year.

Starting corners Michael Hunter and Tim Bennett return, but the Hoosiers must become stingier against the pass after allowing enemy QBs to complete 60.9 percent of their throws and picking off just seven passes in 2013.

The real strength of the Hoosiers is the offense, and with experience back all over the lineup, another big year is expected. Indiana scored 38.4 points per game last year and could be better than that in 2014. Juniors Nate Sudfeld and Tre Roberson are back under center and can stress defenses in different ways. Sudfeld is a pocket passer who threw for 2,523 yards and 21 scores last season, while Roberson is a dual threat who had a combined 1,551 yards in the air and on the ground.

Junior running back Tevin Coleman rushed for 958 yards and 12 TDs and has breakaway speed, but the Hoosiers need help at receiver, where their top two targets have departed. Shane Wynn (46 receptions, 11 TDs) is reliable, and true freshman Dominique Booth could be a real weapon. Five starters and plenty of depth return along the line, led by tackle Jason Spriggs. Kicker Mitch Ewald is gone, but junior punter Erich Toth had a solid 2013 campaign.

Difference-maker

Tim Bennett, CB

After senior Antonio Marshall was dismissed from the team last August, Bennett, who had played strong safety, moved to corner. Marshall was hardly missed; Bennett recorded 73 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss and 20 pass breakups en route to earning Indiana's Defensive Teammate of the Year Award and All-Big Ten honorable mention. He'll need to be a catalyst for a Hoosier defense that was routinely scorched in Big Ten play last year.

BOTTOM LINE

The Hoosiers have a chance to build momentum early, but their success in the East relies entirely on a defense that is more experienced but still vulnerable.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Indiana State	73-35
S.13	@ BOWLING GREEN	42-10
S.20	@ MISSOURI	28-45
S.27	Maryland	
O.4	North Texas	
O.11	@ IOWA	
O.18	Michigan State	28-42
N.1	@ MICHIGAN	47-63
N.8	Penn State	44-24
N.15	@ RUTGERS	
N.22	@ OHIO STATE	14-42
N.29	Purdue	56-36

COACH

Kevin Wilson
Fourth year (10-26)
Career record: 10-26

Offensive coordinator: Kevin Johns (fourth year)
Defensive coordinators: Brian Knorr (first year)
William Inge (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 5-7
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (52,929)
Tickets: 866-IUSPORTS
Site: Bloomington, Ind.
Website: iuhoosiers.com
Twitter: @HoosierFootball

BENNETT: AL GOLDIS / AP

MARYLAND TERRAPINS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

BIG TEN EAST

6

Andre Monroe

5-YEAR RECORD 24-38

The Terps are about as well prepared for their move to the Big Ten as they can be, thanks to nine starters back on both sides of the ball along with seasoned depth. Granted, this is still a team that finished 7-6 last year, won just three ACC games and fell to Marshall in the Military Bowl. Maryland won't be a pushover, but it is a long way from being able to hang with the Big Ten's best.

The return of senior C.J. Brown under center is good news. He threw for 2,242 yards and ran for 576 last year. Now, he must become more accurate as a passer. He'll benefit from the return of the top six targets from last year, including speedy Stefon Diggs (34 receptions, 3 TDs), the reliable Levern Jacobs (47, 3) and Nigel King (33, 4). The ground attack's main man is back, too. Brandon Ross gained 776 yards in 2013 and should have support from sophomore Wes Brown, who sat out last year for disciplinary reasons after gaining 382 yards in 2012.

They'll work behind an experienced line that returns four starters and expects to add junior-college tackle Larry Mazyck.

If the Terps are going to thrive this season, they must shore up their defensive backfield, which was a popular target last season. The good news is that plenty of experience returns, including top tackler Sean Davis, a safety, and sophomore corner William Likely.

The linebacking crew has good depth, too. Inside man Cole Farrand was an honorable mention All-ACC pick last year, and L.A. Goree, another inside 'backer, was third on the team in tackles last year. Up front, end Andre Monroe led the Terps in sacks (9.5), while nose man Darius Kilgo can get into enemy backfields.

Kicker Brad Craddock converted 21 of 25 field goals while punter Nathan Renfro averaged 40.8 yards per boot.

Difference-maker

Andre Monroe, DE

Redshirted as a freshman in 2010, Monroe showed promise in 2011 only to be subdued by a season-long injury in 2012. But patience is a virtue. In 2013, the 5-11, 270-pound stick of dynamite lit up opposing backs with a team-high 17 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks. He'll get his chance to disrupt Big Ten backfields in 2014.

BOTTOM LINE

If Maryland expects to make a big first impression in the Big Ten, it should think again. The Terps have some talent but not enough to make a run at the big boys. Coach Randy Edsall should concentrate on handling the nonleague foes and hoping Maryland can make progress against Indiana and Rutgers before it imagines itself a contender.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	James Madison	
S.6	@ SOUTH FLORIDA	
S.13	West Virginia	37-0
S.20	@ SYRACUSE	3-20
S.27	@ INDIANA	
O.4	Ohio State	
O.18	Iowa	
O.25	@ WISCONSIN	
N.1	@ PENN STATE	
N.15	Michigan State	
N.22	@ MICHIGAN	
N.29	Rutgers	

COACH

Randy Edsall
Fourth year (13-24)
Career record: 87-94

Offensive coordinator: Mike Locksley (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Brian Stewart (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Lost to Marshall in the Military Bowl, 31-20)
Stadium: Byrd Stadium (51,802)
Tickets: 800-IM-A-TERP
Site: College Park, Md.
Website: umterps.com
Twitter: @umterps

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	C.J. Brown (6-3, 210, Sr.)
FB	Kenneth Goins (5-9, 225, So.)
TB	Brandon Ross (5-10, 205, Jr.)
LT	Ryan Doyle (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LG	Evan Mulrooney (6-5, 290, Jr.)
C	Sal Conaboy (6-4, 290, Sr.)
RG	Andrew Zeller (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RT	Michael Dunn (6-5, 295, So.)
TE	P.J. Gallo (6-2, 250, So.)
WR	Stefon Diggs (6-0, 195, Jr.)
WR	Levern Jacobs (5-11, 185, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Quinton Jefferson (6-3, 275, Jr.)
NT	Darius Kilgo (6-3, 310, Sr.)
DE	Andre Monroe (5-11, 275, Sr.)
OLB	Matt Robinson (6-3, 240, Sr.)
ILB	Cole Farrand (6-3, 245, Sr.)
ILB	L.A. Goree (6-2, 240, Sr.)
OLB	Yannick Ngakoue (6-2, 250, So.)
CB	Alvin Hill (5-11, 200, Jr.)
CB	William Likely (5-7, 175, So.)
S	Sean Davis (6-1, 195, Jr.)
S	Anthony Nixon (6-1, 205, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Brad Craddock (6-1, 180, Jr.)
P	Nathan Renfro (6-1, 205, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Damian Prince,** OT ★★★★★
2. **Jesse Aniebonam,** DE ★★★★
3. **Derwin Gray,** OT ★★★★

As the Terrapins move to the Big Ten, they could be set at offensive tackle for many years to come. Maryland beat out Florida on National Signing Day for local standout Damian Prince, and Fork Union Military Academy's Derwin Gray was a blue-chipper coming out of high school in 2013 before heading to prep school for a year. Coach Randy Edsall and his staff landed three more four-stars in athlete Juwann Winfree, defensive end Jesse Aniebonam and quarterback Will Ulmer. Maryland's 16-player class ranked seventh in the Big Ten and No. 43 nationally.

MONROE: MARK GOLDMAN / ICON SMI

RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

5-YEAR RECORD 37-27

Paul James

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Gary Nova (6-2, 220, Sr.)
FB	Michael Burton (6-0, 235, Sr.)
RB	Paul James (6-0, 210, Jr.)
LT	Keith Lumpkin (6-8, 315, Jr.)
LG	Kaleb Johnson (6-4, 305, Sr.)
C	Betim Bujari (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RG	Chris Muller (6-6, 300, So.)
RT	Taj Alexander (6-4, 290, Sr.)
TE	Tyler Kroft (6-6, 240, Jr.)
WR	Ruhann Peele (6-1, 185, So.)
WR	Leonte Carroo (6-1, 200, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Djwany Mera (6-4, 260, Jr.)
NT	Kenneth Kriksey (6-1, 275, Sr.)
DT	Darius Hamilton (6-4, 260, Jr.)
DE	Quanzell Lambert (6-1, 230, So.)
OLB	Quentin Gause (6-1, 220, Jr.)
MLB	Kevin Snyder (6-3, 235, Sr.)
OLB	Steve Longa (6-1, 220, So.)
CB	Gareef Glashen (5-10, 180, Sr.)
CB	Anthony Cioffi (6-0, 180, So.)
S	Lorenzo Waters (6-0, 205, Sr.)
S	Johnathan Aiken (5-11, 190, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Kyle Federico (6-0, 190, Jr.)
P	Joe Roth (6-0, 175, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. Justin Nelson, OLB ★★★
2. Robert Martin, RB ★★★
3. Josh Hicks, APB ★★★

It was a tough year on the recruiting trail for Rutgers, as New Jersey's top 15 players headed elsewhere for school. The Scarlet Knights went heavy on offensive linemen and defensive backs in their 24-man class, signing six O-linemen and five prospects with the ability to play cornerback. Offensive tackle Marcus Applefield leads the way up front and the Sunshine State standout enrolled early. Another Florida prospect, Kam Lott, comes in as the top-ranked defensive back. Running backs Robert Martin and Josh Hicks should complement each other well while sharing time in the Rutgers backfield.

The Terps may be stepping up in class, but the Scarlet Knights are making a huge leap out of the American Athletic Conference waters. And even though last year's squad made it to the Pinstripe Bowl and returns 16 starters, it's unlikely Rutgers is ready for a full season of Big Ten competition. We have heard for a couple of decades now that if Rutgers could only keep New Jersey's in-state talent home, it would become a powerhouse. That has yet to happen, and unless the Knights' new conference affiliation leads to a change in the habits of the Garden State's top players, contention is a long way off.

Nine regulars are back on offense, but significant improvement is needed. Although the top four rushers from last year return, led by junior Paul James (881 yards, 9 TDs), Rutgers averaged a pedestrian 3.7 yards per carry. The good news is that the line returns five starters. Although they were mixed-and-matched at times, each earned plenty of experience. The best of the bunch is senior center Betim Bujari, a second-team All-AAC choice last year.

Senior Gary Nova is back under center, and it is imperative that he improves. Nova completed only 54.5 percent of his throws last year and had 14 passes intercepted. Since no QB behind him attempted a pass, Nova must become more reliable. He'll get some help from his receiving corps, most notably All-AAC first-team tight end Tyler Kroft, who led the team with 43 receptions in 2013. Wide receiver Leonte Carroo is a speedster who caught 28 balls and scored nine times.

The defense can handle the run pretty well, as evidenced by rivals' meager 3.1 yards-per-carry average in 2013. Linebackers Steve Longa, Kevin Snyder and Quentin Gause form a solid second line behind a front unit led by tackle Darius Hamilton.

The big problem for Rutgers last year came against the pass. Enemy QBs completed a robust 63.5 percent of their throws, tossed 31 TDs and were intercepted just eight times. Senior strong safety Lorenzo Waters is a solid performer, as is senior corner Gareef Glashen.

Difference-maker

Paul James, RB

James was supposed to be a major part of the offense last year, but his impact far exceeded expectations. In nine appearances and eight starts, he rushed for 881 yards and nine touchdowns. The versatile 6-0, 210-pound junior also contributed 11 catches for 107 receiving yards. To be successful in the Big Ten, a solid running game is a necessity, and James is the vital cog in that transition.

BOTTOM LINE

The Rutgers athletic administration is delighted with its arrival in the Big Ten, but the football program is going to pay some serious dues.

7 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG TEN EAST

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Washington State*	
S.6	Howard	
S.13	Penn State	
S.20	@ NAVY	
S.27	Tulane	
O.4	Michigan	
O.18	@ OHIO STATE	
O.25	@ NEBRASKA	
N.1	Wisconsin	
N.15	Indiana	
N.22	@ MICHIGAN STATE	
N.29	@ MARYLAND	

* At Seattle

COACH

Kyle Flood
Third year (15-11)
Career record: 15-11

Offensive coordinator: Ralph Friedgen (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Joe Rossi (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 6-7
(Lost to Notre Dame in the Pinstripe Bowl, 29-16)
Stadium: High Point Solutions Stadium (52,454)
Tickets: 866-455-GORU
Site: Piscataway, N.J.
Website: scarletknights.com
Twitter: @RFootball

JAMES: MEL EVANS / AP

NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG TEN WEST
1

Randy Gregory

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Florida Atlantic	
S.6	McNeese State	
S.13	@ FRESNO STATE	
S.20	Miami (FL)	
S.27	Illinois	39-19
O.4	@ MICHIGAN STATE	28-41
O.18	@ NORTHWESTERN	27-24
O.25	Rutgers	
N.1	Purdue	44-7
N.15	@ WISCONSIN	
N.22	Minnesota	23-34
N.28	@ IOWA	17-38

COACH
Bo Pelini
Seventh year (58-24)
Career record: 58-24

Offensive coordinator: Tim Beck (fourth year)
Defensive coordinator: John Papuchis (third year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 9-4
(Beat Georgia in the Gator Bowl, 24-19)
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (87,091)
Tickets: 800-8-BIGRED
Site: Lincoln, Neb.
Website: huskers.com
Twitter: @Huskers

Saying that 2013 was an interesting year for Nebraska would be a huge understatement. There was considerable drama about whether Bo Pelini would be retained as the Huskers' coach, along with the problems his brother, Carl (a former Husker assistant), had down at Florida Atlantic that resulted in his losing his job. The Huskers lost two of their last three regular season games, including a 38-17 shellacking at the hands of Iowa–at home–in the regular-season finale.

Nebraska dumped Georgia, 24-19, in the Gator Bowl. Pelini was retained. And 2014 dawns with the Cornhuskers hoping to grab a spot in the Big Ten title game and provide some real security for Pelini. The good news is that Nebraska has been put in the Big Ten's new West Division, which for the time being appears lighter than its East counterpart.

The main impediment to a division title appears to be on the offensive side, where the line must be rebuilt, and sophomore QB Tommy Armstrong has to emerge as a true passing threat. Without answers found for those areas, the Huskers will struggle, and even though the Blackshirts should be stout again, they need some support.

Since Taylor Martinez played only four games last year, Armstrong had the opportunity to start eight times. He posted a 7-1 mark during those contests but didn't necessarily distinguish himself as a particularly dangerous performer. He completed only 51.9 percent of his passes, averaged only 107.3 yards in the nine games he played and threw only nine TD passes against eight picks. He was a solid runner but didn't break away too often and enters 2014 needing to prove to enemy defenses that he must be respected as a passer. Redshirt freshman Johnny Stanton is the main threat to Armstrong's status, with sophomore Ryker Fyfe as another option.

Difference-maker
Randy Gregory, DE

Calling Gregory's emergence in 2013 an explosion is an understatement–try supernova. Missing the 2012 season at Arizona Western Community College with an injury, his first season in the Big Ten began with question marks. It ended with an exclamation as the 6-6, 245-pound Indiana native led the conference with 10.5 sacks and had 19 tackles for loss.

GREGORY: NATI HARNIK / AP

The good news is that some skill surrounds the quarterback position. Senior Ameer Abdullah gained 1,690 yards and scored nine times last year, while junior Imani Cross had 447 yards and 10 TDs. At receiver, senior Kenny Bell is on pace to set Nebraska career records for receptions and yards after snaring 52 passes in 2013. The big question is whether the Huskers can develop some reliable targets to go with him. Sophomore Jordan Westerkamp caught 20 passes last year, while Jamal Turner and Sam Burtch have shown some potential.

The line needs four new regulars. Senior guard Jake Cotton started 11 times last year and should be set, while classmate Mark Pelini started twice at center in 2013. Junior Chongo Kondolo impressed during the spring at a guard spot, while Mike Moudy handled some guard work, too. Expect Matt Finnin and Zach Sterup to get long looks at tackle.

The defensive line has no such questions and should be a definite strength. End Randy Gregory led the Big Ten with 10.5 sacks in 2013 and was all-league first team. Tackle Vincent Valentine is stout, while Aaron Curry and Maliek Collins have talent inside.

There is plenty of experience at linebacker, where middle man Michael Rose is flanked by David Santos and Zaire Anderson. However, veterans don't abound in the defensive backfield. Seniors Corey Cooper and Josh Mitchell are set as starters at safety and corner, respectively, but the other two spots in the secondary will be up for grabs among junior Jonathan Rose, sophomores LeRoy Alexander and Nate Gerry and juco newcomer Byerson Cockrell.

Expect junior Mauro Bondi, a kickoff specialist, to handle placements while sophomore Sam Foltz must be more consistent punting this year.

BOTTOM LINE

The Huskers have talent all over the roster, but the development of the line and Armstrong's effectiveness will determine whether they can take the West. Nebraska has had trouble getting defenses to respect its passing game, and another season of inconsistency by Armstrong will make the Huskers one-dimensional. The defensive front seven is strong and deep, but the secondary has to coalesce for Nebraska to have a truly great unit.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

The Huskers bring in a 25-player class that ranked sixth in the Big Ten and No. 36 nationally, with the strength being at the point of attack on both sides of the ball. Bo Pelini and his staff are excited about the offensive linemen coming in, led by four-stars Tanner Farmer and Nick Gates, along with a pair of in-staters, D.J. Foster and Mick Stoltenberg, who may be the hidden gem in the class. This haul of offensive linemen is arguably the conference's best. Junior-college defensive tackle Joe Keels will give the Huskers' a boost up front, while Peyton Newell, Sedrick King and DeAndre Wills will add depth.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Tanner Farmer, OG ★★★★
2. Nick Gates, OT ★★★★
3. Peyton Newell, DT ★★★

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Tommy Armstrong Jr. GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
9	124.3	68-131-8	51.9	966	9	107.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Ameer Abdullah	13	281	1690	6.0	9	130.0

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Kenny Bell	13	52	577	11.1	4	44.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Corey Cooper	13	52	39	91

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Randy Gregory	13	10.5	69

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Randy Gregory	1	33	33.0	1
Corey Cooper	1	16	16.0	0
LeRoy Alexander	1	12	12.0	0
Josh Mitchell	1	4	4.0	0

Ameer Abdullah

ABDULLAH: GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	NEB	OPP
SCORING	415	323
Points Per Game	31.9	24.8
FIRST DOWNS	289	261
Rushing	144	108
Passing	128	130
Penalty	17	23
RUSHING YARDAGE	2804	2030
Yards gained rushing	3114	2452
Yards lost rushing	310	422
Rushing Attempts	584	538
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.8
Average Per Game	215.7	156.2
TDs Rushing	24	21
PASSING YARDAGE	2557	2790
Comp-Att-Int	218-378-13	210-388-14
Average Per Pass	6.8	7.2
Average Per Catch	11.7	13.3
Average Per Game	196.7	214.6
TDs Passing	25	17
TOTAL OFFENSE	5361	4820
Total Plays	962	926
Average Per Play	5.6	5.2
Average Per Game	412.4	370.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	41-934	28-566
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	23-70	15-121
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	14-257	13-102
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.8	20.2
PUNT RETURN AVG.	3.0	8.1
INT RETURN AVG.	18.4	7.8
FUMBLES-LOST	32-16	18-4
PENALTIES-YARDS	76-665	59-511
Average Per Game	51.2	39.3
PUNTS-YARDS	71-2954	79-3166
Average Per Punt	41.6	40.1
Net punt average	37.9	38.4
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:20	30:40
3RD-DOWN CONV.	73/186	58/188
3rd-Down Pct.	39%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	10/15	8/21
4th-Down Pct.	67%	38%
SACKS BY-YARDS	39-270	17-140
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	54	38
FG-ATTEMPTS	13-14	19-25
ATTENDANCE	727466	307919
Games/Avg Per Game	8/90933	4/76980
Neutral Site Games		1/60712

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Nebraska	121	98	123	70	3	415
Opponent	74	68	93	88	0	323

5-YEAR RECORD 48-20

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Tommy Armstrong (6-1, 220, So.)
	Johnny Stanton (6-2, 225, Fr.)
RB	Ameer Abdullah (5-9, 195, Sr.)
	Imani Cross (6-1, 230, Jr.)
LT	Alex Lewis (6-6, 290, Jr.)
	David Knevel (6-9, 310, Fr.)
LG	Jake Cotton (6-6, 305, Sr.)
	Chongo Kondolo (6-4, 300, Jr.)
C	Mark Pelini (6-0, 290, Sr.)
	Ryne Reeves (6-3, 300, Jr.)
RG	Mike Moudy (6-5, 305, Sr.)
	Givens Price (6-4, 305, Jr.)
RT	Zach Sterup (6-8, 315, Jr.)
	Matt Finnin (6-7, 305, Jr.)
TE	Cethan Carter (6-4, 240, So.)
	Sam Cotton (6-4, 250, So.)
WR	Kenny Bell (6-1, 185, Sr.)
	Brandon Reilly (6-1, 195, So.)
WR	Sam Burtch (6-3, 195, Jr.)
	Taariq Allen (6-3, 200, Jr.)
WR	Jordan Westerkamp (6-0, 195, So.)
	Jamal Turner (6-1, 185, So.)

Defense

DE	Randy Gregory (6-6, 245, Jr.)
	Joe Keels (6-3, 250, Jr.)
DT	Vincent Valentine (6-3, 320, So.)
	Aaron Curry (6-1, 280, Jr.)
DT	Maliek Collins (6-2, 300, So.)
	Kevin Williams (6-2, 275, Jr.)
DE	Greg McMullen (6-3, 280, So.)
	A.J. Natter (6-5, 250, Fr.)
OLB	Zaire Anderson (5-11, 220, Sr.)
	Courtney Love (6-1, 240, Fr.)
MLB	Michael Rose (5-11, 240, So.)
	Josh Banderas (6-2, 235, So.)
OLB	David Santos (6-0, 225, Jr.)
	Marcus Newby (6-1, 215, Fr.)
CB	Josh Mitchell (5-11, 160, Sr.)
	Boaz Joseph (6-1, 190, Fr.)
CB	Jonathan Rose (6-1, 190, Jr.)
	Byerson Cockrell (6-0, 185, Jr.)
S	Corey Cooper (6-1, 215, Sr.)
	D.J. Singleton (6-1, 200, Fr.)
S	LeRoy Alexander (6-0, 200, So.)
	Nate Gerry (6-2, 210, So.)

Specialists

K	Mauro Bondi (6-0, 205, Jr.)
P	Sam Foltz (6-1, 205, So.)

Sporting News All-American

WISCONSIN BADGERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG TEN WEST
2

Melvin Gordon

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	LSU*	
S.6	Western Illinois	
S.20	Bowling Green	
S.27	South Florida	
O.4	@ NORTHWESTERN	35-6
O.11	Illinois	56-32
O.25	Maryland	
N.1	@ RUTGERS	
N.8	@ PURDUE	41-10
N.15	Nebraska	
N.22	@ IOWA	28-9
N.29	Minnesota	20-7

* At Houston

COACH
Gary Andersen
Second year (9-4)
Career record: 35-28

Offensive coordinator: Andy Ludwig (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Dave Aranda (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 9-4
(Lost to South Carolina in the Capital One Bowl, 34-24)
Stadium: Camp Randall Stadium (80,321)
Tickets: 800-GO-BADGERS
Site: Madison, Wis.
Website: uwbadgers.com
Twitter: @BadgerFootball

Anybody thinking Gary Andersen was planning on arriving in Madison and changing the way business is done didn't understand who hired him. There was no way Wisconsin athletic director Barry Alvarez was going to let some spread-happy passing game savant hijack the cheese-and-potatoes style he had established when he was coach of the Badgers. To prove his delight at Andersen's accomplishments, which featured a 9-4 record in 2013, a six-game winning streak and a tantalizing near-miss against Ohio State, Alvarez gave Andersen a new contract that runs through January 2019 and will pay him $2.2 million annually.

The Badgers enter 2014 as the favorites in the Big Ten West, but that doesn't mean they are without concerns. The receiving corps lacks a proven producer, and the defense must find a way to put more pressure on the passer and shore up a front seven that lost six starters from last year.

And that doesn't even begin to consider the quarterback position. Joel Stave is the incumbent, but a shoulder injury suffered in the Capital One Bowl loss to South Carolina limited his spring work and didn't allow the Badgers to see if he could be more efficient. The good news is that junior Tanner McEvoy, who played safety last year, had an opportunity to show what he could do. The job is still Stave's, but he needs to be consistent.

There is no such drama in the ground game. Junior Melvin Gordon rushed for 1,609 yards and 12 TDs last year, while averaging 7.8 yards per carry. He and sophomore Corey Clement (547 yards, 7 TDs, 8.2-yard average) form a strong tandem.

The receiving corps lacks the same security. With Jared Abbrederis and his 78 receptions gone, the Badgers must find someone capable of stressing defenses. Tight end Jacob Pedersen (39 catches) also graduated, so junior Jordan Fredrick, senior Kenzel Doe, sophomores Alex Erickson and Robert Wheelwright and the oft-injured Reggie Love will vie for Stave's attention.

Difference-maker
Melvin Gordon, RB

In 2013, Gordon and then-senior James White were a wrecking crew that amassed more than 3,100 yards combined. Showing elite speed, quickness and escapability, Gordon finished with 1,609 yards on 206 carries—a whopping 7.8 yards per rush—and was named second-team All-Big Ten. He returns this year to talk of Heisman consideration.

GORDON: MORRY GASH / AP

Expect speedy freshman Natrell Jamerson to get a good look in the fall as well.

The line returns four starters, including senior right-side standouts Kyle Costigan, a guard, and Rob Havenstein (tackle). Sophomore Dan Voltz will handle center again, with Dallas Lewallen stepping into the vacated left-guard position and junior Tyler Marz handling left tackle.

The theme for the Badger defense is "smaller and faster," the better to find ways into enemy backfields. That doesn't mean the beef is gone completely. Seniors Konrad Zagzebski and Warren Herring will man the middle of the trenches, with redshirt freshman Chikwe Obasih on the end. Senior Derek Landisch (33 tackles) is the sole returning linebacker starter, but fellow inside man Joe Schobert saw plenty of time, while senior outside linebacker Marcus Trotter showed well in only five games of action last year.

The secondary is in good shape in terms of experience, but it must improve on last year's meager nine interceptions and avoid breakdowns like the one it had against Penn State in the regular-season finale, when Nittany Lion QB Christian Hackenberg threw for 339 yards (21-of-30) and four touchdowns. Sophomore Sojourn Shelton returns at one corner after intercepting four passes last year, with junior Darius Hillary on the other side. Junior safety Michael Caputo made 63 tackles last year–second on the team–and junior A.J. Jordan moves into the other safety spot.

Junior kicker Jack Russell made an acceptable nine of 13 field goals last year but must become more reliable and demonstrate more range, while junior punter Drew Meyer needs to improve on last year's 38.6-yard average. Doe is a dangerous return man.

BOTTOM LINE

The Badgers are going to run the ball and control the clock. That's how it's done in Madison. The question is whether the other pieces of the team can come together well enough to allow for more than just another good season. Can Stave play effectively all year? Will the receiving corps grow up? And does the front seven have the ability to make big plays?

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

The Badgers always load up at the point of attack, but coach Gary Andersen's first full recruiting class saw Wisconsin land a lot of its top prospects at the skill positions on offense. The Badgers flipped four-star athlete Watkins from Northwestern, added four-star receiver Krenwick Sanders, landed one of the top dual-threat quarterbacks in the country in Gillins, and scored two more running backs who will continue to carry the torch in Madison in Taiwan Deal and Caleb Kinlaw. Paving the way for Deal and Kinlaw will be offensive tackle Gault, who has as much NFL upside as any player at his position in this recruiting class. Wisconsin's large, 33-player class ranked No. 5 in the Big Ten and No. 33 nationally.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Jaden Gault, OT ★★★★
2. Dareian Watkins, ATH ★★★★
3. D.J. Gillins, QB ★★★★

STAVE: PAUL VERNON / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Joel Stave	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	138.1	208-336-13	61.9	2494	22	191.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Melvin Gordon	13	206	1609	7.8	12	123.8

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jordan Fredrick	13	10	106	10.6	0	8.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Michael Caputo	13	36	27	63

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Warren Herring	13	4.0	34

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Sojourn Shelton	4	10	2.5	0

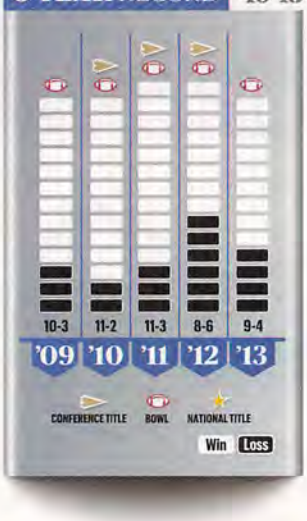
Joel Stave

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	WIS	OPP
SCORING	453	212
Points Per Game	34.8	16.3
FIRST DOWNS	286	209
Rushing	163	76
Passing	116	113
Penalty	7	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	3689	1333
Yards gained rushing	3931	1642
Yards lost rushing	242	309
Rushing Attempts	557	414
Average Per Rush	6.6	3.2
Average Per Game	283.8	102.5
TDs Rushing	35	8
PASSING YARDAGE	2562	2633
Comp-Att-Int	217-355-15	227-425-9
Average Per Pass	7.2	6.2
Average Per Catch	11.8	11.6
Average Per Game	197.1	202.5
TDs Passing	22	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	6251	3966
Total Plays	912	839
Average Per Play	6.9	4.7
Average Per Game	480.8	305.1
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-716	68-1313
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	28-208	13-94
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	9-30	15-185
KICK RETURN AVG.	23.1	19.3
PUNT RETURN AVG.	7.4	7.2
INT RETURN AVG.	3.3	12.3
FUMBLES-LOST	18-4	20-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	54-474	67-427
Average Per Game	36.5	32.8
PUNTS-YARDS	53-2045	87-3442
Average Per Punt	38.6	39.6
Net punt average	35.7	36.0
TIME OF POSS./GAME	33:34	26:26
3RD-DOWN CONV.	74/177	57/186
3rd-Down Pct.	42%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	11/20	9/20
4th-Down Pct.	55%	45%
SACKS BY-YARDS	26-148	16-94
MISC YARDS	0	-3
TDS SCORED	59	25
FG-ATTEMPTS	14-21	13-16
ATTENDANCE	552378	342245
Games/Avg Per Game	7/78911	5/68449
Neutral Site Games		1/56629

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Wisconsin	103	135	95	120	0	453
Opponent	40	73	43	56	0	212

5-YEAR RECORD 49-13



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Joel Stave (6-5, 225, Jr.)
	Tanner McEvoy (6-6, 223, Jr.)
FB	Derek Watt (6-2, 231, Jr.)
	Derek Straus (6-0, 235, Jr.)
RB	Melvin Gordon (6-1, 207, Jr.)
	Corey Clement (5-11, 210, So.)
LT	Tyler Marz (6-7, 321, Jr.)
	Hayden Biegel (6-5, 281, So.)
LG	Dallas Lewallen (6-6, 322, Sr.)
	Ray Ball (6-7, 321, Jr.)
C	Dan Voltz (6-4, 313, So.)
	Michael Deiter (6-5, 310, Fr.)
RG	Kyle Costigan (6-4, 315, Sr.)
	Trent Denlinger (6-6, 297, So.)
RT	Rob Havenstein (6-8, 327, Sr.)
	Walker Williams (6-7, 322, So.)
TE	Sam Arneson (6-4, 254, Sr.)
	Austin Traylor (6-3, 243, Jr.)
WR	Kenzel Doe (5-8, 170, Sr.)
	Alex Erickson (6-0, 198, So.)
WR	Jordan Frederick (6-3, 210, Jr.)
	Robert Wheelwright (6-1, 198, So.)

Defense

DE	Chikwe Obasih (6-4, 245, So.)
	Alec James (6-4, 239, So.)
NT	Warren Herring (6-3, 294, Sr.)
	Bryce Gilbert (6-1, 307, Sr.)
DT	Konrad Zagzebski (6-3, 278, Sr.)
	James Adeyanju (6-2, 265)
OLB	Vince Biegel (6-3, 233, So.)
	Jesse Hayes (6-3, 236, Jr.)
ILB	Joe Schobert (6-2, 230, Jr.)
	Michael Trotter (6-0, 205, Sr.)
ILB	Derek Landisch (5-11, 230, Sr.)
	Leon Jacobs (6-4, 225, So.)
OLB	Marcus Trotter (6-0, 233, Sr.)
	Michael Caputo (6-1, 206, Jr.)
CB	Sojourn Shelton (5-9, 172, So.)
	T.J. Reynard (5-11, 172, Jr.)
CB	Darius Hillary (5-11, 187, Jr.)
	Devin Gaulden (5-10, 180, Sr.)
S	A.J. Jordan (6-0, 178, Jr.)
	Nate Hammon (6-1, 196, So.)
S	Michael Caputo (6-1, 206, Jr.)
	Leo Musso (5-10, 195, So.)

Specialists

K	Jack Russell (6-0, 172, Jr.)
P	Drew Meyer (6-2, 185, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

BIG TEN WEST

3

David Cobb

2014 SCHEDULE		
DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Eastern Illinois	
S.6	Middle Tennessee State	
S.13	@ TCU	
S.20	San Jose State	43-24
S.27	@ MICHIGAN	13-42
O.11	Northwestern	20-17
O.18	Purdue	
O.25	@ ILLINOIS	
N.8	Iowa	7-23
N.15	Ohio State	
N.22	@ NEBRASKA	34-23
N.29	@ WISCONSIN	7-20

COACH

Jerry Kill
Fourth year (17-21)
Career record: 144-94

Offensive coordinator: Matt Limegrover (fourth year)
Defensive coordinator: Tracy Claeys (fourth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Lost to Syracuse in the Texas Bowl, 21-17)
Stadium: TCF Bank Stadium (50,805)
Tickets: 800-U-GOPHER
Site: Minneapolis
Website: gophersports.com
Twitter: @GopherFootball

Like most teams that are trying to climb to their feet, Minnesota experienced inconsistency and some upset during the 2013 season, beginning the year with four straight wins before losing two. The Gophers then won four straight but closed with three consecutive losses. Up and back. Up and back.

But there is no disputing that Minnesota has made progress under coach Jerry Kill, and it's good to hear that his health was strong through the spring and his seizures had stopped. That will allow him to continue rallying a team that clearly loves playing for him and is showing signs of becoming a factor in the Big Ten West.

There are plenty of reasons to be optimistic about the Gophers' future, but they still have plenty of things to figure out, beginning at quarterback, where sophomore Mitch Leidner moves into the starting position following Philip Nelson's decision to transfer to Rutgers. Leidner is a dangerous runner who finished second on the team with 407 yards and scored seven times. The question is whether he can be a reliable passer. He showed flashes last year but must now become more consistent.

He'll benefit from the return of senior tailback David Cobb, who rushed for 1,202 yards and seven scores in 2013. Junior Rodrick Williams (332 yards, 3 TDs) and senior Donnell Kirkwood will provide depth. It will be interesting to see what true freshman Jeff Jones, the Gophers' most heralded recruit, can provide.

Minnesota may turn to rookies at receiver, too, since last year's top returning wideout, Drew Wolitarsky, caught just 15 passes in 2013. Freshmen Melvin Holland and Isaiah Gentry will get the chance to make immediate contributions. Sophomore Donovahn Jones and senior Isaac Fruechte will also play roles. Sophomore tight end Maxx Williams showed promise last year.

There is plenty of depth and experience along the line, as eight players who started at least three games in 2013 return, led by

Difference-maker

David Cobb, RB

Cobb's 1,202 yards rushing last season were the most for a Gopher since 2006. The explosive 225-pound Texan finished the season with six 100-yard rushing games, including four straight and five total in Big Ten play. The numbers speak loudly considering he received less than half of the Gophers' running plays (237 of 586).

COBB: ANN HEISENFELT / AP

senior guard Caleb Bak. Expect to see senior Zac Epping at the other guard spot, and junior Josh Campion at right tackle, with Jonah Pirsig behind him. Junior Jon Christenson started most of last year at center, while sophomore Ben Lauer will get a look at the left tackle spot vacated by Ed Olson.

Minnesota's defense allowed 22.2 points per game in 2013, fourth in the Big Ten. With seven starters returning, there is potential for improvement. The big loss is first-team All-Big Ten tackle Ra'Shede Hageman, who registered 13 tackles for loss last year. But senior middle linebacker Damien Wilson (78 stops) is back, and his 2013 backup, sophomore Jack Lynn, has been moved outside to take advantage of his improved speed. Junior De'Vondre Campbell will be on the other side, giving the Gophers a fast bunch along the second line of defense.

Up front, junior Theiren Cockran is back after posting a team-high 7.5 sacks in 2013. It would be good if he duplicated that and got some help since Minnesota managed just 18 sacks last year. Senior Cameron Botticelli had 5.5 stops behind the line at tackle. Senior Michael Amaefula will handle one end, with Scott Ekpe the prime candidate to take Hageman's spot.

The Gophers were susceptible to the pass last year and allowed opposing QBs to complete 60.9 percent of their throws. Safeties Antonio Johnson and Cedric Thompson return after proving to be solid against the run, and junior Eric Murray broke up 10 passes at his corner spot. Senior Derrick Wells will get a chance to start at the other outside position.

Junior punter Peter Mortell had a solid 43.3-yard average last year, but the Gophers need a new kicker. Redshirt freshmen Justin Juenemann, Andrew Harte and Ryan Santoso will vie for that spot. Senior Marcus Jones is one of the league's best return men.

BOTTOM LINE

This is a big year for the Gophers, who want to establish themselves as forces in the West Division. To do that, Leidner must improve his passing, the receivers have to emerge, and Minnesota needs to make more big plays on defense. Kill has done an excellent job building a foundation. It's time to keep the construction going.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Coach Jerry Kill and his staff were able to keep the top in-state player at home in blue-chip running back Jeff Jones, Minnesota's Mr. Football winner, who was heavily recruited. Jones committed early and maintained his pledge despite hearing from top schools coast-to-coast. Minnesota signed 20 prospects in 2014, with receiver Melvin Holland being a great late pickup. His stock began to soar near National Signing Day. All-America center Connor Mayes will join his older brother as a Gopher, as Minnesota beat out several programs (including Texas A&M) for the Lone Star State product. Another big recruiting win for an out-of-state target was Wisconsin tight end Gaelin Elmore.

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Jeff Jones,** RB ★★★★
2. **Connor Mayes,** OL ★★★
3. **Melvin Holland,** WR ★★★

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Mitch Leidner	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	10	131.9	43-78-1	55.1	619	3	61.9

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
David Cobb	13	237	1202	5.1	7	92.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Maxx Williams	13	25	417	16.7	5	32.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Cedric Thompson	13	52	27	79

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Theiren Cockran	13	7.5	38

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Briean Boddy-Calhoun	1	89	89.0	1
Antonio Johnson	1	0	0.0	0
Cedric Thompson	1	0	0.0	0

Maxx Williams

WILLIAMS: ANN HEISENFELT / AP

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	MINN	OPP
SCORING	334	289
Points Per Game	25.7	22.2
FIRST DOWNS	238	245
Rushing	134	108
Passing	93	123
Penalty	11	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	2538	2056
Yards gained rushing	2852	2353
Yards lost rushing	314	297
Rushing Attempts	586	453
Average Per Rush	4.3	4.5
Average Per Game	195.2	158.2
TDs Rushing	23	19
PASSING YARDAGE	1925	2796
Comp-Att-Int	137-267-7	247-405-10
Average Per Pass	7.2	6.9
Average Per Catch	14.1	11.3
Average Per Game	148.1	215.1
TDs Passing	12	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	4463	4852
Total Plays	853	858
Average Per Play	5.2	5.7
Average Per Game	343.3	373.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	40-884	46-946
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	19-170	26-271
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	10-191	7-85
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.1	20.6
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.9	10.4
INT RETURN AVG.	19.1	12.1
FUMBLES-LOST	18-9	17-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	57-469	44-382
Average Per Game	36.1	29.4
PUNTS-YARDS	62-2687	63-2593
Average Per Punt	43.3	41.2
Net punt average	37.0	36.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:53	27:07
3RD-DOWN CONV.	77/182	64/174
3rd-Down Pct.	42%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	14/20	13/22
4th-Down Pct.	70%	59%
SACKS BY-YARDS	18-133	27-170
MISC YARDS	80	0
TDS SCORED	42	36
FG-ATTEMPTS	14-18	14-19
ATTENDANCE	334581	280127
Games/Avg Per Game	7/47797	5/56025
Neutral Site Games		1/32327

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Minnesota	44	122	68	100	0	334
Opponent	66	78	68	77	0	289

5-YEAR RECORD 26-37

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Mitch Leidner (6-4, 233, So.)
	Chris Streveler (6-2, 209, RFr.)
RB	David Cobb (5-11, 225, Sr.)
	Berkley Edwards (5-9, 190, RFr.)
LT	Ben Lauer (6-7, 310, So.)
	Marek Lenkiewicz (6-5, 289, Sr.)
LG	Caleb Bak (6-3, 302, Sr.)
	Isaac Hayes (6-2, 304, So.)
C	Jon Christenson (6-4, 306, Jr.)
	Tommy Olson (6-4, 301, Sr.)
RG	Zac Epping (6-2, 321, Sr.)
	Foster Bush (6-5, 303, Jr.)
RT	Josh Campion (6-5, 326, Jr.)
	Jonah Pirsig (6-9, 325, So.)
TE	Maxx Williams (6-4, 254, So.)
	Drew Goodger (6-5, 265, Sr.)
WR	Drew Wolitarsky (6-3, 223, So.)
	Logan Hutton (6-1, 181, Sr.)
WR	Isaac Fruechte (6-3, 204, Sr.)
	Donovahn Jones (6-3, 190, So.)
WR	KJ Maye (5-10, 197, Jr.)
	Eric Carter (5-11, 185, RFr.)

Defense

DE	Theiren Cockran (6-6, 238, Jr.)
	Ben Perry (6-5, 253, Sr.)
DT	Cameron Botticelli (6-5, 290, Sr.)
	Demaris Peppers (6-3, 270, RFr.)
DT	Scott Ekpe (6-4, 281, Jr.)
	Harold Legania (6-4, 308, Sr.)
DE	Michael Amaefula (6-2, 244, Sr.)
	Robert Ndondo-Lay (6-5, 250, Jr.)
OLB	De'Vondre Campbell (6-5, 225, Jr.)
	De'Niro Laster (6-4, 230, RFr.)
MLB	Damien Wilson (6-4, 254, Sr.)
	Nick Rallis (5-11, 227, So.)
OLB	Jack Lynn (6-3, 234, So.)
	Ray Dixon (6-3, 205, RFr.)
CB	Eric Murray (6-0, 194, Jr.)
	Steven Montgomery (5-10, 210, Jr.)
CB	Derrick Wells (6-0, 206, Sr.)
	Jalen Myrick (5-10, 200, So.)
S	Cedric Thompson (5-10, 211, Sr.)
	Daletavious McGhee (6-1, 195, RFr.)
S	Antonio Johnson (6-0, 207, Jr.)
	Damarius Travis (6-2, 208, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Ryan Santoso (6-5, 260, RFr.)
P	Peter Mortell (6-2, 195, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

IOWA HAWKEYES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG TEN WEST

4

Kevonte Martin-Manley

5-YEAR RECORD 38-26

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Northern Iowa	
S.6	Ball State	
S.13	Iowa State	27-21
S.20	@ PITTSBURGH	
S.27	@ PURDUE	38-14
O.11	Indiana	
O.18	@ MARYLAND	
N.1	Northwestern	17-10
N.8	@ MINNESOTA	23-7
N.15	@ ILLINOIS	
N.22	Wisconsin	9-28
N.28	Nebraska	38-17

COACH

Kirk Ferentz
16th year (108-79)
Career record: 120-100

Offensive coordinator: Greg Davis (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Phil Parker (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Lost to LSU in the Outback Bowl, 21-14)
Stadium: Kinnick Stadium (70,585)
Tickets: 800-IA-HAWKS
Site: Iowa City, Iowa
Website: hawkeyesports.com
Twitter: @HawkeyeFootball

Heading into last year, there were some whispers that Kirk Ferentz might be ready for a new address. The Hawkeyes had gone 4-8 in 2012 and looked like they were unable to gather the necessary talent to compete in the Big Ten. After posting an 8-5 mark, Iowa appears healthy again, and there is markedly less discussion about Ferentz leaving town.

That doesn't mean Iowa doesn't have work to do, particularly on the defensive side, where just five starters return. Particularly hard hit is the linebacking corps, which loses all three of last year's regulars, who had combined to make 984 career tackles. The players expected to take over have 48 stops among them. The strength of the unit should be the front, where three starters are back. Leading the way are tackles Carl Davis, a second-team All-Big Ten choice last year, and Louis Trinca-Pasat, who received honorable mention.

Safety John Lowdermilk made 78 tackles last year, and corner Desmond King broke up eight passes. Sophomore Reggie Spearman and junior Travis Perry are the early favorites at outside linebacker, with senior Quinton Alston in the middle, but there will be plenty of competition.

Difference-maker

Kevonte Martin-Manley, WR/PR

He has two last names and two methods of inflicting pain. As a receiver, Martin-Manley caught five touchdowns and led the team in receptions and receiving yards. As a punt returner, he averaged 15.7 yards per return and, in a September game against Western Michigan, scored on back-to-back punt returns. Double ouch.

Last year junior QB Jake Rudock had some moments under center when he looked strong, like in the win over Purdue when he was 12-of-20 for 191 yards, two TDs and no picks. But Rudock threw 13 interceptions on the season and completed only 59 percent of his throws, numbers that must improve. He'll throw to a receiving corps that includes Kevonte Martin-Manley (40 catches, 5 TDs) and Tevaun Smith (24, 1), but neither is a burner. True freshman Jay Scheel could help out.

Senior Mark Weisman (975 yards, 8 TDs) was last year's top rusher and will receive support from Jordan Canzeri (481, 2) and Damon Bullock (467, 1). They'll work behind a line that returns three starters, including All-Big Ten first-team tackle Brandon Scherff and honorable-mention center Austin Blythe. Junior Marshall Koehn gets first crack at replacing graduated placekicker Mike Meyer.

BOTTOM LINE

The Hawkeyes made some big improvement last year and have the good fortune of being in the shaky West this season. But there are some serious holes to fill before contention can be considered, most notably at linebacker. The O-line must be settled, and it would be good to find some speed at receiver. If the youngsters step up, and Rudock gets more consistent, Iowa will be bowling and in the top part of the division.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Jake Rudock (6-3, 205, Jr.)
RB	Mark Weisman (6-0, 236, Sr.)
LT	Brandon Scherff (6-5, 315, Sr.)
LG	Sean Welsh (6-3, 285, Rfr.)
C	Austin Blythe (6-3, 300, Jr.)
RG	Jordan Walsh (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RT	Andrew Donnal (6-7, 305, Sr.)
TE	Ray Hamilton (6-5, 252, Sr.)
WR	Tevaun Smith (6-2, 200, Jr.)
WR	Kevonte Martin-Manley (6-0, 205, Sr.)
WR	Jacob Hillyer (6-4, 205, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Drew Ott (6-4, 265, Jr.)
DT	Carl Davis (6-5, 315, Sr.)
DT	Louis Trinca-Pasat (6-3, 290, Sr.)
DE	Mike Hardy (6-5, 275, Sr.)
OLB	Travis Perry (6-3, 232, Jr.)
MLB	Quinton Alston (6-1, 232, Sr.)
OLB	Reggie Spearman (6-3, 225, So.)
CB	Maurice Fleming (6-0, 188, So.)
CB	Desmond King (5-11, 185, So.)
S	John Lowdermilk (6-2, 207, Sr.)
S	Jordan Lomax (5-10, 195, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Marshall Koehn (6-0, 195, Jr.)
P	Connor Kornbrath (6-6, 240, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

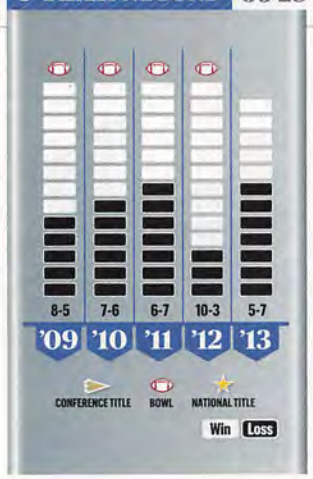
1. **Jay Scheel,** ATH ★★★
2. **Markel Smith,** RB ★★★
3. **Tyler Wiegers,** QB ★★★

The Hawkeye coaching staff is excited about the athleticism it's bringing in with this 22-player class. Smith has all the tools to be one of the best running backs in the Big Ten. He rushed for 2,504 yards and 28 touchdowns as a prep junior. Athlete Scheel and jumbo athlete Matt Nelson bring a lot of versatility to the roster, and both will be really good players in Iowa City wherever they line up. Former Rutgers quarterback commit Tyler Wiegers was one of the Midwest's top arms. Offensive line was a huge need in the class. In-stater Lucas LeGrand was the biggest get up front.

MARTIN-MANLEY: CHARLIE NEIBERGALL / AP

NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

5-YEAR RECORD 36-28



Chi Chi Ariguzo

5 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG TEN WEST

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Trevor Siemian (6-3, 210, Sr.)
RB	Venric Mark (5-8, 175, Sr.)
LT	Jake Konopka (6-5, 300, Sr.)
LG	Geoff Mogus (6-5, 300, Jr.)
C	Brandon Vitabile (6-3, 300, Sr.)
RG	Matt Frazier (6-4, 295, Jr.)
RT	Paul Jorgensen (6-6, 300, Sr.)
WR	Dan Vitale (6-2, 235, Jr.)
WR	Christian Jones (6-3, 225, Sr.)
WR	Cameron Dickerson (6-3, 205, Jr.)
WR	Tony Jones (6-0, 200, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Dean Lowry (6-6, 265, Jr.)
DT	Greg Kuhar (6-3, 300, So.)
DT	Chance Carter (6-3, 300, Sr.)
DE	Ifeadi Odenigbo (6-3, 245, So.)
OLB	Chi Chi Ariguzo (6-3, 235, Sr.)
MLB	Collin Ellis (6-2, 230, Sr.)
OLB	Drew Smith (6-1, 225, Jr.)
CB	Nick VanHoose (6-0, 190, Jr.)
CB	Matthew Harris (5-11, 180, So.)
S	Ibraheim Campbell (5-11, 210, Jr.)
S	Traveon Henry (6-1, 210, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Hunter Niswander (6-5, 210, RFr.)
P	Chris Gradone (6-2, 195, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. Parrker Westphal, CB ★★★★
2. Justin Jackson, APB ★★★★
3. Clayton Thorson, QB ★★★★

This was a small but very talented class for Northwestern, arguably the best in Wildcats history. Coach Pat Fitzgerald and his staff signed 15, landing many of their top targets in the Chicago area. Cornerback Westphal was a national recruit who chose the Wildcats in December over Vanderbilt before becoming the school's first-ever early enrollee. All-purpose back Jackson was fantastic as a high school junior and senior, and could also be a big-time cornerback. Quarterback Thorson is among the nation's best, and has as much upside as any passer in the country.

A lot has changed in Evanston since this time last year, when the Wildcats were celebrating a bowl win and talking about how close they had come to an undefeated season. After slumping to 5-7 and losing seven straight at one point, including a stretch that included a pair of overtime defeats and two losses by field goals, Northwestern attempts to rebound with an experienced team. It also moves forward as the test case for player unionization, thanks to former QB Kain Colter's appearance before the National Labor Relations Board, a federal agency vested in employees' rights to unionize.

With Colter gone, the signal-caller job falls full time to senior Trevor Siemian, who threw for 2,149 yards and 11 TDs last year and completed 59.7 percent of his throws but lacks the mobility of Colter. That means senior tailback Treyvon Green (736 yards, 8 TDs) and redshirt senior Venric Mark–who missed all but three games due to injury but rushed for 1,366 yards in 2012–will get plenty of work. They can handle it. Receivers Tony (55 catches, 4 TDs) and Christian (54, 4) Jones will again be reliable targets.

There is great news up front, thanks to the return of all five starters, with center Brandon Vitabile leading the way–although the line must protect the passer more effectively.

The defense has some real potential, thanks to linebacker Chi Chi Ariguzo, who had 106 tackles and four interceptions last year; safety Ibraheim Campbell (4 picks); and sophomore Ifeadi Odenigbo, who showed promise as an edge pass rusher last year. Safety Traveon Henry is a sure tackler, while Dean Lowry looked good at the end spot.

The Wildcats must replace both their kicker and punter, but the return of Mark is good news for the return game. He was All-Big Ten in that area in 2012.

Difference-maker

Chi Chi Ariguzo, LB

The 6-3 senior's name is a mouthful, matching his play, which fills up the stat sheet. Ariguzo's 106 tackles were the second most for the Wildcats in 2013. Matching great speed with superb awareness, he contributed four interceptions (tied for second in the Big Ten), nine breakups, six tackles for loss, two sacks, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. His play was reminiscent of his head coach, Pat Fitzgerald, who led the Wildcats' top-ranked scoring defense in 1995 en route to the school's first Rose Bowl in 47 years.

BOTTOM LINE

The Wildcats may have stepped back somewhat last year, but failure to take this team seriously in 2014 could be a real problem for opponents. Northwestern has experience and talent, and the return of Mark will help. If Siemian can be more reliable, the 'Cats should be back in the bowl picture.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	California	44-30
S.6	Northern Illinois	
S.20	Western Illinois	
S.27	@ PENN STATE	
O.4	Wisconsin	6-35
O.11	@ MINNESOTA	17-20
O.18	Nebraska	24-27
N.1	@ IOWA	10-17
N.8	Michigan	19-27
N.15	@ NOTRE DAME	
N.22	@ PURDUE	
N.29	Illinois	37-34

COACH

Pat Fitzgerald
Ninth year (55-46)
Career record: 55-46

Offensive coordinator: Mick McCall (seventh year)
Defensive coordinator: Mike Hankwitz (seventh year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 5-7
Stadium: Ryan Field (47,130)
Tickets: 888-GO-PURPLE
Site: Evanston, Ill.
Website: nusports.com
Twitter: @NUFBFamily

ARIGUZO: WARREN WIMMER / ICON SMI

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI

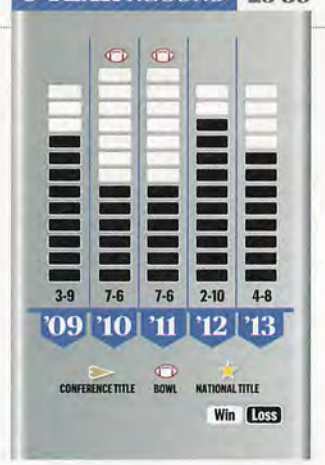
PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

BIG TEN WEST

6

Mason Monheim

5-YEAR RECORD 23-39



If Tim Beckman wants to make sure he sticks around Champaign a few more seasons, he must find a way to improve a defense that surrendered 35.4 points and 481.5 yards per game last year. That was the biggest contributor to 2013's one-win Big Ten campaign and has to be addressed. The Illini couldn't rush the passer, intercepted only three passes and were gashed on the ground and through the air.

Illinois is addressing its problems with some new faces and some position changes. Should it hold rivals down somewhat, growth is possible. But continued trouble stopping people will spell another poor campaign.

The arrivals of junior-college transfers Paul James III, an end, and Jihad Ward, a tackle, should help along the line, which was a big part of last year's 5.6 yards per carry success rate by opposing backs. They will join senior tackle Austin Teitsma in what the Illini hopes is a stouter front. Junior Mason Monheim is the sole returning linebacker and was last year's third-leading tackler. Beckman has been impressed with the play of sophomore D.J. Smoot at the other linebacker position, while senior Earnest Thomas, who made 101 tackles last year, has been moved from safety to the hybrid Star position.

The secondary returns plenty of experience, including free safety Zane Petty. Sophomore Caleb Day looked good in spring drills at cornerback.

It is expected that Oklahoma State transfer Wes Lunt will take over at quarterback for departed Nathan Scheelhaase, although senior Reilly O'Toole mounted a solid challenge in the spring. Lunt impressed with his accuracy and leadership. He needs some targets to emerge, thanks to the losses of Steve Hull, Spencer Harris and Miles Osei. Junior-college transfer Geronimo Allison and true freshman Mike Dudek looked good during the spring and will team with Justin Hardee and Martize Barr on the outside.

Junior Josh Ferguson rushed for 779 yards and seven scores in 2013 and gives the Illini a solid feature back with senior Donovonn Young (376, 3) behind him. The line returns four starters, most notably senior tackle Simon Cvijanovic.

BOTTOM LINE

If the Illini want to reach a bowl game, their defense must improve. But Lunt's development is also key. Illinois' offense was potent last year, and he must prove consistently effective. This is still a relatively young team.

Difference-maker

Mason Monheim, LB

Monheim grew up a mile from the headquarters of the jelly/jam-producing Smucker's company in Orrville, Ohio—which may explain how his hands seem to stick to ballcarriers. His 97 tackles last season were 11 more than the total he amassed when he led the team in that category as a freshman in 2012.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Youngstown State	
S.6	Western Kentucky	
S.13	@ WASHINGTON	24-34
S.20	Texas State	
S.27	@ NEBRASKA	19-39
O.4	Purdue	20-16
O.11	@ WISCONSIN	32-56
O.25	Minnesota	
N.1	@ OHIO STATE	35-60
N.15	Iowa	
N.22	Penn State	17-24
N.29	@ NORTHWESTERN	34-37

COACH

Tim Beckman
Third year (6-18)
Career record: 27-34

Offensive coordinator: Bill Cubit (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Tim Banks (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 4-8
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (60,670)
Tickets: 866-ILLINI-1
Site: Champaign, Ill.
Website: fightingillini.com
Twitter: @IlliniFootball

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Wes Lunt (6-5, 215, So.)
RB	Josh Ferguson (5-10, 195, So.)
LT	Simon Cvijanovic (6-5, 310, Sr.)
LG	Alex Hill (6-3, 310, Sr.)
C	Michael Heitz (6-5, 305, Sr.)
RG	Ted Karras (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RT	Austin Schmidt (6-6, 290, So.)
TE	Jon Davis (6-3, 240, Sr.)
WR	Mike Dudek (5-11, 180, Fr.)
WR	Geronimo Allison (6-3, 185, Jr.)
WR	Martize Barr (6-0, 195, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Kenny Nelson (6-6, 250, Jr.)
NT	Austin Teitsma (6-2, 290, Sr.)
DT	Teko Powell (6-3, 295, So.)
DE	Dewaune Smot (6-3, 250, So.)
LB	Ralph Cooper (6-1, 230, Sr.)
LB	Mason Monheim (6-1, 235, Jr.)
ROV	Earnest Thomas (6-2, 210, Sr.)
CB	V'Angelo Bentley (5-10, 190, Jr.)
CB	Caleb Day (6-1, 195, So.)
S	Zane Petty (6-1, 200, Jr.)
S	Taylor Barton (6-1, 215, So.)

Specialists

K	Taylor Zalewski (6-3, 220, Jr.)
P	Justin DuVernois (6-1, 190, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

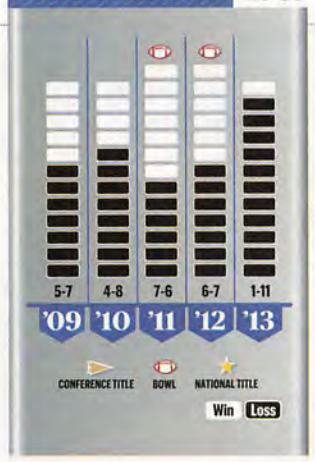
1. **Jihad Ward,** DT ★★★
2. **Tyrin Stone-Davis,** WR ★★★
3. **Chayce Crouch,** QB ★★★

As the Illini eye a bowl game in 2014, this recruiting class could get them over the hump as coach Tim Beckman and his staff addressed key needs by bringing in junior-college prospects who could be immediate difference-makers. Defensive tackle Jihad Ward is the jewel of the class, and was the nation's No. 2 player nationally at his position in the 247Sports juco rankings. Receiver Tyrin Stone-Davis was the No. 3 player at his position in the country in the same 247 rankings. Receiver Geronimo Allison, defensive end Joe Fotu and linebacker Carroll Phillips are three more JC talents arriving.

MONHEIM: STEPHEN HAAS / AP

PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

5-YEAR RECORD 23-39



Justin Sinz

7
PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG TEN WEST

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Danny Etling (6-2, 218, So.)
RB	Raheem Mostert (5-11, 186, Sr.)
LT	Corey Clements (6-8, 340, Jr.)
LG	Jason King (6-3, 300, So.)
C	Robert Kugler (6-3, 284, Jr.)
RG	Jordan Roos (6-5, 320, So.)
RT	David Hedelin (6-5, 285, Jr.)
TE	Justin Sinz (6-5, 251, Sr.)
WR	Danny Anthrop (6-3, 183, Jr.)
WR	Dan Montorosa (6-3, 185, So.)
WR	DeAngelo Yancey (6-2, 200, So.)

Defense

DE	Ryan Russell (6-5, 270, Sr.)
NT	Ra'Zahn Howard (6-4, 315, So.)
DT	Jake Replogle (6-4, 240, So.)
OLB	Jalani Phillips (6-4, 256, Sr.)
ILB	Sean Robinson (6-3, 240, Sr.)
ILB	Jimmy Herman (6-4, 220, So.)
OLB	Joe Gilliam (6-1, 225, Sr.)
CB	Anthony Brown (5-11, 201, Jr.)
CB	Frankie Williams (5-9, 185, Jr.)
S	Evan Feichter (6-0, 187, So.)
S	Taylor Richards (5-10, 192, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Paul Griggs (6-1, 200, Jr.)
P	Thomas Meadows (6-0, 182, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **David Hedelin,** OT ★★★
2. **David Blough,** QB ★★★
3. **Gelen Robinson,** OLB ★★★

Coach Darrell Hazell's first full recruiting class in West Lafayette had needs addressed along the offensive line and at linebacker. The biggest get up front was junior-college offensive tackle David Hedelin, who signed a month after National Signing Day. Ohio's Martesse Patterson was a nice under-the-radar get as an offensive lineman. Linebacker Gelen Robinson, the son of Purdue basketball legend Glenn Robinson, is an All-State athlete in three sports and one of Indiana's top prospects. He, along with fellow linebacker JaWhaun Bentley, has a chance to make an early impact.

The overriding theme for this year's Purdue team is a more complete commitment to second-year coach Darrell Hazell and his staff's program. The Boilermakers slogged through a 1-11 campaign in 2013, struggling on both sides of the ball. After this year's spring practice, Purdue is a tighter unit and more familiar with the expectations.

Whether that transfers to wins is another question. It would be nice to say that simple progress and the development of roster depth is enough, but this isn't 1979, and coaches are expected to win quickly these days, and Hazell needs to bring the program forward. A nonconference schedule that includes some possible victories will help that cause. A tough Big Ten slate will not.

The Boilermaker offense needs a considerable shot of juice, since it managed just 14.9 points per game last year and was particularly anemic on the ground (2.5 yards per carry). That should improve if senior tailback Raheem Mostert, a double sprint champ at the Big Ten indoor track meet, can stay healthy. He and senior Akeem Hunt will lead the ground attack and work behind a line that returns its interior—most notably junior center Robert Kugler—but must find some new tackles. Expect junior-college imports David Hedelin and Corey Clements to get good looks on the outside.

Difference-maker
Justin Sinz, TE

The quarterback situation was shaky last year for the Boilermakers with then-senior Rob Henry. Freshman Danny Etling took over in late October and Sinz emerged as his sure-hands guy. His 41 catches and four touchdowns led the team while he finished tied for second in receiving yards with 340. With a full offseason to work together, expect Etling and the 6-4, 251-pound senior from Edgar, Wis., to continue progressing under second-year coach Darrell Hazell.

Sophomore Danny Etling returns under center after an up-and-down 2013. He must be more accurate (55.8-percent completion rate) and continue to develop his decision-making skills. Justin Sinz (41 catches) is back but averaged only 8.3 yards per reception last season. Sophomore DeAngelo Yancey has big-play ability, though.

Coordinator Greg Hudson's defense should be improved. Moving sophomore Jake Replogle from end to tackle made sense during the spring, and shifting Robert Gregory from tailback to safety could pay off, too. Senior inside linebacker Sean Robinson had a good spring, as did cornerback Frankie Williams. Purdue must put more pressure on the quarterback and shore up the front seven against the run (5.3 yards per carry).

The Boilers need a new punter and must hope junior kicker Paul Griggs (6-of-12 on field goals) can be more reliable.

BOTTOM LINE

The Boilermakers should step forward this season, but bowl contention remains a long way off.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Western Michigan	
S.6	Central Michigan	
S.13	Notre Dame*	24-31
S.20	Southern Illinois	
S.27	Iowa	14-38
O.4	@ ILLINOIS	16-20
O.11	Michigan State	0-14
O.18	@ MINNESOTA	
N.1	@ NEBRASKA	7-44
N.8	Wisconsin	10-41
N.22	Northwestern	
N.29	@ INDIANA	36-56

* At Indianapolis

COACH
Darrell Hazell
Second year (1-11)
Career record: 17-21

Offensive coordinator: John Shoop (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Greg Hudson (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 1-11
Stadium: Ross-Ade Stadium (62,500)
Tickets: 800-497-7678
Site: West Lafayette, Ind.
Website: purduesports.com
Twitter: @BoilerFootball

SINZ: ZACH BOLINGER / ICON SMI

PROJECTED FINISH

1. **OKLAHOMA** — Bowl Projection: Rose Bowl (Playoff Semifinal) & College Football Championship game
2. **BAYLOR** — Bowl Projection: Tostitos Fiesta Bowl
3. **TEXAS** — Bowl Projection: Russell Athletic Bowl
4. **OKLAHOMA STATE** — Bowl Projection: Valero Alamo Bowl
5. **KANSAS STATE** — Bowl Projection: AdvoCare Texas Bowl
6. **TCU** — Bowl Projection: AutoZone Liberty Bowl
7. **WEST VIRGINIA** — Bowl Projection: Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
8. **TEXAS TECH** — Bowl Projection: Heart Of Dallas Bowl
9. **IOWA STATE**
10. **KANSAS**

Trevor Knight

Tyler Lockett

Four-team CFP should be kinder, gentler to Big 12

BY BLAIR KERKHOFF | *Kansas City Star*

During its conference championship years, the Big 12 had its share of success, with seven appearances in the national championship game over a 10-year period.

But just as defining was the league's maddening ability to knock itself out of the national title picture with favorites losing in the conference championship tilt. The tone was set in the inaugural game when Nebraska was upset by Texas: Kansas State, the Longhorns and Missouri would all lose a chance to play for the crystal ball trophy over the years with crushing losses in early December.

Ah, but when the conference eliminated the title game and adopted a full round-robin schedule, the league would rid itself of that season-ending trip wire.

Except the Big 12 found a new way to rub itself out of the title picture.

In each of the three years the 10-member league played a complete round-robin slate, a team with an undefeated record in November that was headed for a top-two spot in the final BCS standings lost.

In 2011, Oklahoma State fell at Iowa State. In 2012, it was Kansas State's turn at Baylor. Last year, the Bears got hammered at Oklahoma State.

Poof went the Big 12's national title shot.

Now, a late-season loss may not be as devastating. The College Football Playoff will issue four invitations for its semifinals. Had the structure been in place the previous three seasons, it's likely Oklahoma State would have found a spot in the bracket. Kansas State and Baylor would have been bubble teams over the next two years.

But if you're looking for late, championship-dream-smashing upset possibilities for 2014, circle Nov. 15, when Oklahoma visits Texas Tech.

The Sooners have returned to the favorite's role fresh off its Sugar Bowl triumph over Alabama, the best victory for the conference in years. With Trevor Knight, who torched Nick Saban's defense, the unquestioned starter at quarterback, Oklahoma has the momentum heading into this season.

Baylor, Oklahoma State and Texas appear to be the top challengers, and the Longhorns are starting over with a new coach in Charlie Strong. Mack Brown's replacement arrived from Louisville, where he built hard-nosed defenses. Quarterback play has been a problem at Texas since the departure of Colt McCoy, and the Longhorns will look to David Ash to come up big.

TRENDING

Three stories to watch

1 Better quarterback play: This had been a strong QB conference, until last year, when nearly every team used multiple starters. Prospects for better play seem likely as more teams named starters out of spring practice.

RECRUITING RANKINGS

by JC Shurburtt, 247Sports

247 COMPOSITE

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL PLAYERS	★★★★★ 5-STAR RECRUITS	★★★★ 4-STAR RECRUITS	★★★ 3-STAR RECRUITS	POINTS
1	Oklahoma	28	1	7	18	248.55
2	Texas	23	0	8	15	240.71
3	Baylor	28	1	3	24	217.00
4	Oklahoma State	28	0	5	22	216.67
5	West Virginia	22	0	2	20	197.74
6	Texas Tech	26	0	0	25	189.88
7	TCU	24	0	1	20	188.06
8	Kansas State	25	0	1	20	178.95
9	Kansas	23	0	1	18	171.64
10	Iowa State	25	0	1	20	169.60

ALL-BIG XII

Offense

QB **Bryce Petty,** Sr., Baylor
RB **Shock Linwood,** So., Baylor
RB **Malcolm Brown,** Sr., Texas
OL **Spencer Drango,** Jr., Baylor
OL **Le'Raven Clark,** Jr., Texas Tech
C **Tom Farniok,** Sr., Iowa State
OL **B.J. Finney,** Sr., Kansas State
OL **Daryl Williams,** Sr., Oklahoma
TE **E.J. Bibbs,** Sr., Iowa State
WR **Tyler Lockett,** Sr., Kansas State
WR **Antwan Goodley,** Sr., Baylor

Defense

DL **Devonte Fields,** So., TCU
DL **Cedric Reed,** Sr., Texas
DL **Ryan Mueller,** Sr., Kansas State
DL **Charles Tapper,** Jr., Oklahoma
LB **Bryce Hager,** Sr., Baylor
LB **Ben Heeney,** Sr., Kansas
LB **Eric Striker,** Jr., Oklahoma
DB **Sam Carter,** Sr., TCU
DB **Quandre Diggs,** Sr., Texas
DB **Isaiah Johnson,** Jr., Kansas
DB **Kevin Peterson,** Jr., Oklahoma State

Specialists

K **Michael Hunnicutt,** Sr., Oklahoma
P **Spencer Roth,** Sr., Baylor

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The league's top quarterback is again surrounded by plenty of offensive weapons.

Devonte Fields

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

He set the tone as a freshman, sat out most of last year with a foot injury and is ready to reclaim his title as league's top lineman.

ASCENDING

OKLAHOMA

The Sooners rallied for a second-place finish and No. 6 final ranking in the national polls. With many key components returning, they have earned the preseason favorite's role.

DESCENDING

OKLAHOMA STATE

The Cowboys, who tied for second last year, enter 2014 without a QB derby, but the depth and quality of their recent recruiting classes will be tested in a way it hasn't in several seasons.

2 Not so fast, my Longhorn friend: Don't mark Texas' return to the top of the Big 12 in ink. There will be an adjustment period with new coach Charlie Strong, especially on the offensive side.

3 Weis Watch: The clock is ticking on Kansas' Charlie Weis. He inherited a mess, but the fanbase had hoped for more improvement than one conference victory in two years.

RATING THE BIG XII

FASTEST RECEIVER
Tyler Lockett, Kansas State
Fast enough to blow by DBs and kick-return defenses.

BEST HANDS
Nick Harwell, WR, Kansas
Arrives from Miami (Ohio) with 229 career receptions.

BEST PASSING QB
Bryce Petty, Baylor
In his first year as a starter, he threw for 4,200 yards and 32 touchdowns.

BEST RUNNING QB
Trevor Knight, Oklahoma
Rushed for 445 yards in eight games last season.

MOST ELUSIVE RB
Shock Linwood, Baylor
Averaged 6.9 yards per carry last season.

BEST INSTINCTS
Ryan Mueller, DE, Kansas State
Showed a nose for the ball last season with 11.5 sacks and 18.5 tackles for loss.

BEST ATHLETE
Tyreek Hill, APB, Oklahoma State
He was the Big 12 indoor track champion before putting on the pads in spring.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Jake Waters, QB, Kansas State
Was at his best once he took majority of snaps.

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Devonte Fields, DE, TCU
Fields was among league's top defenders as a freshman in 2012.

TOP IMPACT FRESHMAN
Joe Mixon, RB, Oklahoma
He wore Adrian Peterson's No. 28 in high school.

HARDEST HITTER
Dominique Alexander, LB, Oklahoma
Alexander also happens to be the hardest worker on the Sooners' defense.

BEST PASS RUSHER
Devonte Fields, DE, TCU
Was the Frogs' sack-meister as a freshman with 10.

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (OFF THE FIELD)
Glenn Gronkowski, OL, Kansas State
Rob's younger brother carried a 4.0 GPA in marketing during the 2013 fall semester.

BEST INTERVIEW
Charlie Weis, head coach, Kansas
The former Notre Dame coach and offensive guru is always entertaining and full of football information.

BEST COACH AS STRATEGIST
Bill Snyder, Kansas State
Nobody coaches up talent like Snyder.

BEST COACH AS RECRUITER
Kendal Briles, assistant coach, Baylor
The son of the Bears' head coach helped sculpt one of Big 12's top classes as Baylor's offseason recruiting coordinator.

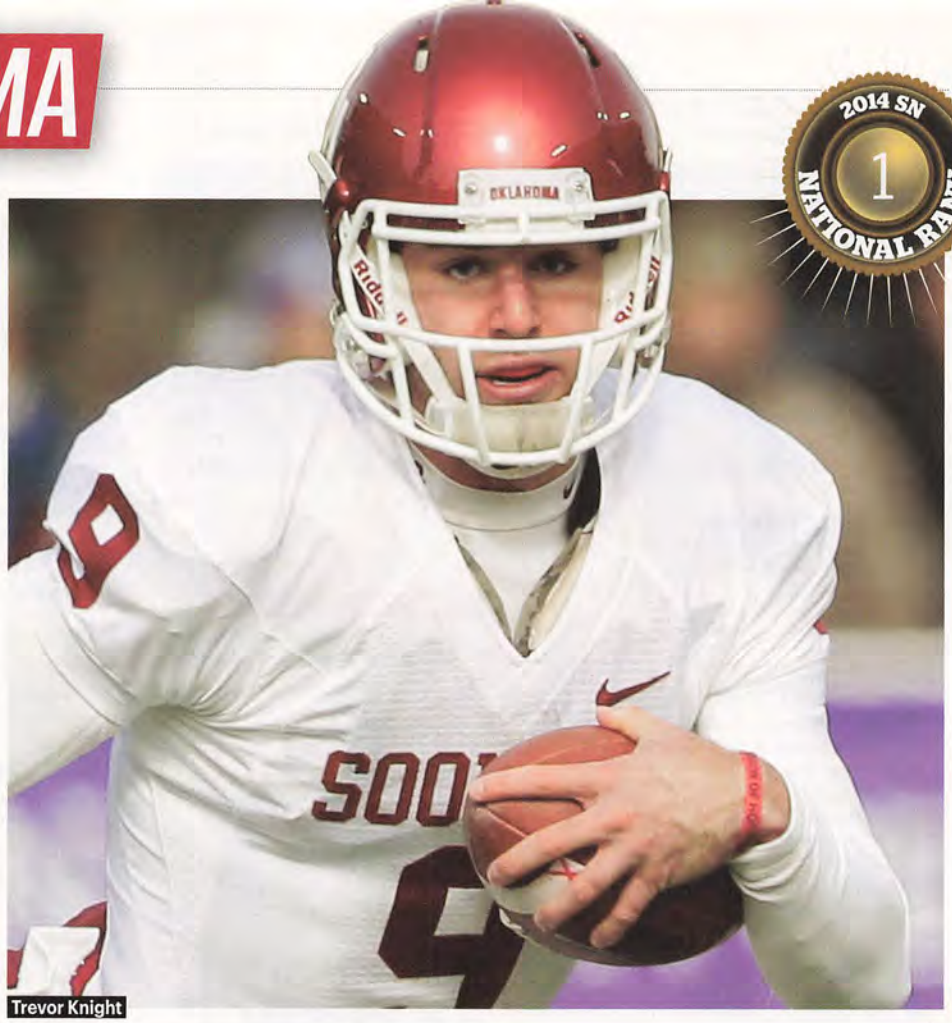
BEST VENUE
Gaylord Family Memorial Stadium, Oklahoma
Roar was restored last season in Norman.

Gaylord Family Memorial Stadium

LOCKETT: CHARLIE RIEDEL / AP; KNIGHT: PATRICK SEMANSKY / AP; FIELDS: RAY CARLIN / ICON SMI; STADIUM: SUE OGROCKI / AP

OKLAHOMA SOONERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG XII
1



Trevor Knight

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Louisiana Tech	
S.6	@ TULSA	51-20
S.13	Tennessee	
S.20	@ WEST VIRGINIA	16-7
O.4	@ TCU	20-17
O.11	Texas*	20-36
O.18	Kansas State	41-31
N.1	@ IOWA STATE	48-10
N.8	Baylor	12-41
N.15	@ TEXAS TECH	38-30
N.22	Kansas	34-19
D.6	Oklahoma State	33-24

* At Dallas

COACH
Bob Stoops
16th year (160-39)
Career record: 160-39

Offensive coordinators: Josh Heupel (fourth year) and Jay Norvell (fifth year)
Defensive coordinator: Mike Stoops (eighth year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 11-2
(Beat Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, 45-31)
Stadium: Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (82,112)
Tickets: 800-456-GoOU
Site: Norman, Okla.
Website: soonersports.com
Twitter: @OU_Football

Oklahoma's got a schooner full of bona fides. National championships, the most Big 12 trophies, Heisman Trophies. Whatever currency is used to measure college football wealth, the Sooners rank among the game's richest.

Still, the victory to cap last season had the feeling of a grand accomplishment. When Oklahoma outlasted Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, the program not only had its first victory over a top five opponent in three seasons and won its first Sugar Bowl in the BCS era to complete the cycle–Sugar, Orange, Fiesta, Rose, plus a national title–it came over a Crimson Tide program that had spent most of the season ranked No. 1 and was seemingly unbeatable until the bizarre Auburn loss.

The whole SEC superiority thing was in play, and Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops himself had stoked some flames the previous summer when he openly questioned the quality of depth in the powerful league.

But in New Orleans, Oklahoma was strong on both sides of the ball and freshman quarterback Trevor Knight, who had won, lost and regained the position last year, finished the season as the Sooners' starter and was the bowl game MVP.

Not sure how many times Oklahoma took a team photo on the field with the trophy over a non-national title game. But it happened here.

Difference-maker
Trevor Knight, QB

Injuries and poor play had Knight and Blake Bell trading the starting spot back and forth last year. But with a late-season injury to Bell, Knight was named the starter in the Sugar Bowl against Alabama. He completed 32 of 44 passes for 348 yards in a surprise 45-31 thrashing of the Tide and won game MVP honors, making himself the front-runner for the position heading into this season.

The victory–and Knight's play, which included four touchdown passes and a Sugar Bowl-record 32 completions–are primary factors in elevating Oklahoma to Big 12 favorite status.

The Sooners finished strong in 2013. Their upset victory at Oklahoma State to end the regular season denied their Bedlam rival the conference championship and allowed Baylor to win its first.

KNIGHT: CHARLIE RIEDEL / AP

Now, the Sooners take aim for a league title they've only won once in the past three years, and that was a shared championship with a Kansas State team that defeated them in 2012.

The most encouraging development going forward is an improved defense. That was the program's calling card in the early Stoops years, with Mike as the co-coordinator before becoming Arizona's head coach. Mike Stoops has been back in Norman as coordinator since 2012, and the defense made great strides last season. Oklahoma sliced 3.4 points and 48.1 yards from the previous year's averages.

Oklahoma led the Big 12 in total defense (350.2 yards per game) for the first time since 2006.

Eleven players with at least four career starts return, and the front seven should be as good as any in the nation. Zack Sanchez looks like the next big thing at cornerback.

The linebacker corps was much improved over last season, led by Eric Striker, who sacked Alabama quarterback A.J. McCarron three times, Frank Shannon, P.L. Lindley and Dominique Alexander, named Big 12 defensive newcomer of the year.

The quarterback position belongs to Knight. He won the battle from Blake Bell to open last season. When Bell took over early after a Knight injury, Bell kept the job for eight starts. He's a strong, 6-6, 258-pound senior who will move to tight end this season. The backup quarterback race is between Cody Thomas and Justice Hansen.

Sterling Shepard, who has caught 96 passes in two years, is the most productive returning wide receiver. Finding a starting running back is a priority, with Keith Ford, who averaged 5.8 yards per carry, as the top returner. The task will be made easier by the return of four starters on the line, led by tackle Daryl Williams.

BOTTOM LINE

The Sooners got a big bounce into this season from the Sugar Bowl triumph, and enough pieces are in place for Oklahoma to be among the four teams in the inaugural College Football Playoff bracket. Knight has to take the next step and become more consistent.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247SPORTS

Oklahoma had the No. 1 class in the Big 12, according to 247Sports, and finished as strongly as any program in the country, landing Mixon during the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in early January and then Quick and Parker on Signing Day. Mixon was the more highly regarded running back, but watch out for 5-11, 233-pound bowling ball (with speed) Samaje Perine from Pflugerville (Texas) Hendrickson. The Sooners also have the tallest receiver class in the country coming in, as Mark Andrews (6-6), Dallis Todd (6-5) and Jeffery Mead (6-6) are all "plus-sized." A pair of junior-college players—linebacker Devante Bond and tight end Isaac Ijalana—have already enrolled, along with quarterback Justice Hansen and athlete Dimitri Flowers, another juco.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Joe Mixon, RB ★★★★★
2. Michiah Quick, WR ★★★★
3. Steven Parker, S ★★★★

BELL: ORLIN WAGNER / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Blake Bell	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	11	132.2	140-233-5	60.1	1648	12	149.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Trevor Knight	8	67	445	6.6	2	55.6

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Sterling Shepard	12	51	603	11.8	7	50.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Frank Shannon	13	55	37	92

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Eric Striker	13	6.5	48

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Julian Wilson	3	0	0.0	0

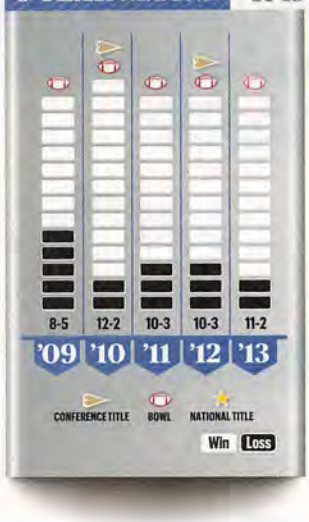
Blake Bell

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	OKLA	OPP
SCORING	427	287
Points Per Game	32.8	22.1
FIRST DOWNS	280	233
Rushing	155	92
Passing	106	118
Penalty	19	23
RUSHING YARDAGE	2911	1789
Yards gained rushing	3191	2108
Yards lost rushing	280	319
Rushing Attempts	559	437
Average Per Rush	5.2	4.1
Average Per Game	223.9	137.6
TDs Rushing	19	17
PASSING YARDAGE	2588	2763
Comp-Att-Int	225-383-11	225-409-16
Average Per Pass	6.8	6.8
Average Per Catch	11.5	12.3
Average Per Game	199.1	212.5
TDs Passing	24	17
TOTAL OFFENSE	5499	4552
Total Plays	942	846
Average Per Play	5.8	5.4
Average Per Game	423.0	350.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	34-761	36-838
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	23-326	20-312
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-258	11-97
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.4	23.3
PUNT RETURN AVG.	14.2	15.6
INT RETURN AVG.	16.1	8.8
FUMBLES-LOST	17-5	14-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	87-723	73-632
Average Per Game	55.6	48.6
PUNTS-YARDS	67-2746	76-3049
Average Per Punt	41.0	40.1
Net punt average	34.5	34.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:18	27:42
3RD-DOWN CONV.	77/195	60/178
3rd-Down Pct.	39%	34%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	11/16	5/14
4th-Down Pct.	69%	36%
SACKS BY-YARDS	33-204	15-109
MISC YARDS	-12	0
TDS SCORED	50	36
FG-ATTEMPTS	24-27	13-16
ATTENDANCE	508334	283738
Games/Avg Per Game	6/84722	5/56748
Neutral Site Games		2/81486

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Oklahoma	61	148	92	126	0	427
Opponent	65	81	80	61	0	287

5-YEAR RECORD 51-15



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Trevor Knight (6-1, 202, So.)
	Cody Thomas (6-4, 220, Fr.)
RB	Keith Ford (5-11, 211, So.)
	Alex Ross (6-1, 221, So.)
FB	Aaron Ripkowski (6-1, 257, Sr.)
	Dimitri Flowers (6-1, 241, Fr.)
LT	Tyrus Thompson (6-5, 330, Sr.)
	Josiah St. John (6-6, 293, Sr.)
LG	Adam Shead (6-4, 331, Sr.)
	Dionte Savage (6-4, 335, Sr.)
C	Ty Darlington (6-2, 290, Jr.)
	Riley Nolan (6-0, 274, So.)
RG	Nila Kasitati (6-4, 315, Jr.)
	Tony Feo (6-3, 296, Sr.)
RT	Daryl Williams (6-6, 328, Sr.)
	Christian Daimler (6-7, 286, Fr.)
TE	Blake Bell (6-6, 258, Sr.)
	Taylor McNamara (6-5, 247, So.)
WR	Durron Neal (5-11, 200, Jr.)
	Derrick Woods (6-1, 189, So.)
WR	Sterling Shepard (5-10, 194, Jr.)
	K.J. Young (6-0, 181, Fr.)

Defense

DE	Chuka Ndulue (6-3, 282, Sr.)
	Mike Onohua (6-5, 255, So.)
DT	Jordan Phillips (6-6, 339, Jr.)
	Jordan Wade (6-4, 308, So.)
DE	Charles Tapper (6-4, 273, Jr.)
	Matt Dimon (6-2, 257, So.)
LB	Geneo Grissom (6-4, 257, Sr.)
	Julian Wilson (6-2, 205, Sr.)
LB	Dominique Alexander (6-0, 219, So.)
	Aaron Franklin (6-1, 226, Sr.)
LB	Frank Shannon (6-1, 234, Jr.)
	Jordan Evans (6-3, 223, So.)
LB	Eric Striker (6-0, 220, Jr.)
	P.L. Lindley (6-2, 262, Jr.)
CB	Zack Sanchez (5-11, 175, So.)
	Cortez Johnson (6-2, 207, Jr.)
CB	Stanvon Taylor (5-10, 176, So.)
	Dakota Austin (5-11, 162, So.)
FS	Julian Wilson (6-2, 205, Jr.)
	Hatari Byrd (6-1, 201, So.)
SS	Quentin Hayes (6-0, 189, Sr.)
	Ahmad Thomas (6-0, 218, So.)

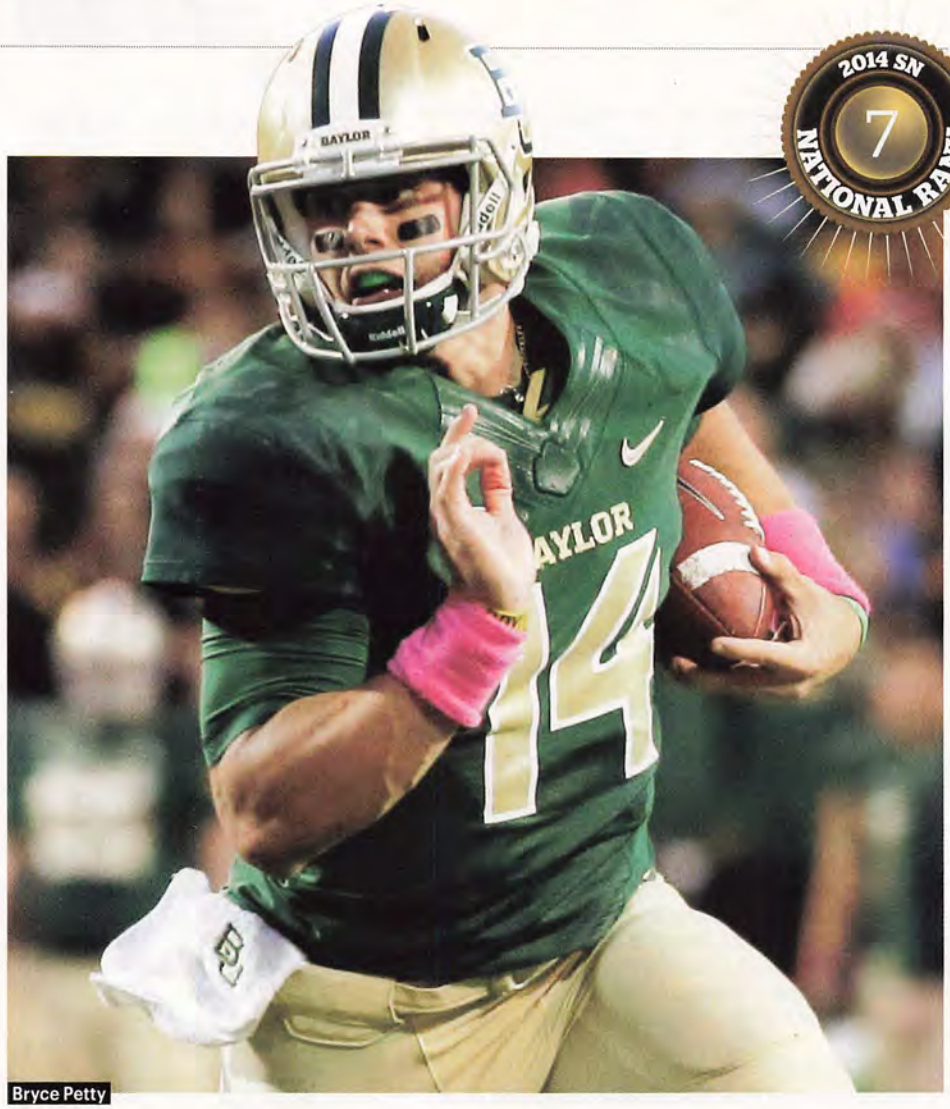
Specialists

K	Michael Hunnicutt (6-1, 178, Sr.)
P	Jed Barnett (6-2, 221, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

BAYLOR BEARS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG XII
2



Bryce Petty

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.31	Southern Methodist	
S.6	Northwestern State	
S.13	@ BUFFALO	70-13
S.27	@ IOWA STATE	71-7
O.4	@ TEXAS	30-10
O.11	TCU	41-38
O.18	@ WEST VIRGINIA	73-42
N.1	Kansas	59-14
N.8	@ OKLAHOMA	41-12
N.22	Oklahoma State	17-49
N.29	Texas Tech*	63-34
D.6	Kansas State	35-25

* At Arlington, TX

COACH

Art Briles
Seventh year (44-32)
Career record: 78-60

Offensive coordinator: Philip Montgomery (seventh year)
Defensive coordinator: Phil Bennett (fourth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 11-2
(Lost to UCF in the Fiesta Bowl, 52-42)
Stadium: McLane Stadium (45,000)
Tickets: 254-710-1000
Site: Waco, Texas
Website: baylorbears.com
Twitter: @BUFootball

After winning an outright conference championship for the first time in more than three decades, Baylor has no intention of easing the throttle.

"The way we're going to approach it is that we're going to fight our tail off to become more formidable," coach Art Briles says.

"We have the belt around our waist," he adds. "It's buckled up pretty tight. It will be a struggle to get that sucker off, I can promise you that. We like the belt and we're going to keep it."

It's the right approach, and the Bears have every reason to believe they'll be in the hunt to become the Big 12's first consecutive champion since Oklahoma in 2007 and 2008. The Sooners also won it in 2006 and that marks the only time in league history a team repeated as champion three times.

Baylor's 2013 title continued the wide-openness of the conference. Five different teams have won or shared the title in the past five years.

The Bears' quest starts with a foundation player in quarterback Bryce Petty, the returning Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year.

Petty came into last season, his fourth on campus, without a career start. He languished on the depth chart, first behind Robert Griffin III, then Nick Florence, patiently awaiting his opportunity. It came in 2013 and he made the most of it.

Operating one of the nation's most potent offenses, Petty finished second nationally

Difference-maker

Bryce Petty, QB

The big-armed leader of the dynamic Baylor offense missed out on a Heisman invite, but he did receive the inaugural Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award for Texas' top Division 1 offensive player. Still, with 32 passing touchdowns last year, Petty will be playing for national awards in 2014—and perhaps a national championship.

PETTY: TONY GUTIERREZ / AP

in passing efficiency and led the country with 16.8 yards per completion. He's also the team's confident spokesman.

"This is what we came here for, not just one title but multiple," Petty says. "So, it's about defending that, knowing that the target is on our backs now. It's not the other way around. People know about us."

They certainly know how Baylor rolled opponents last season when it topped 70 four times in a five-game stretch. The Bears averaged 52.4 points and 618.8 total yards per game as the team climbed to as high as No. 3 in the polls after starting the season unranked.

But the year ended on a downer, with a loss to UCF in a Fiesta Bowl shootout. Baylor's defense was exposed and, if there's a concern heading into this season, it's on that side of the ball.

The Bears are replacing seven defensive starters, but they should be solid up front. Keep tabs on Shawn Oakman, a 6-9, 280-pound end who started his career at Penn State, didn't start last season but recorded 12.5 tackles for loss.

Linebacker Bryce Hager missed the final third of last season with a groin injury that lingered into spring ball, but he's the defensive captain and impact player.

Baylor's offensive line was dominant but gone is All-American Cyril Richardson. Left tackle Spencer Drango proved how good he was last year when a back injury sidelined him for the final month and the pass protection noticeably slipped.

Baylor never seems to run out of playmakers, and wide receivers Antwan Goodley and Levi Norwood, along with running back Shock Linwood, should be among the Big 12's best. Goodley and Norwood combined for 118 receptions and 21 touchdowns. Linwood rushed for 881 yards and eight touchdowns as a freshman.

BOTTOM LINE

The Bears have made great recruiting strides during Briles' seven years in Waco, but the biggest newcomer to the program sits next to the Brazos River. The $260 million, 45,000-seat McLane Stadium opens in the fall. By spring, the school had sold a record 28,000 season tickets and the stadium should be packed for all six home games, starting Aug. 31 with SMU. Baylor is capable of hanging a banner after the first year in its new home.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Baylor, which recruited the No. 26 class nationally, had perhaps the best haul of receivers in the country as Cannon, Hall and 6-3, 201-pound big-time sleeper Ishmael Zamora out of Houston make for an elite trio of pass catchers. The Bears held off a charge from Texas A&M and others to hold on to Hall, who has already enrolled. Other programs made a run at Cannon as well. A pair of junior-college cornerbacks—Chris Sanders and Tion Wright—are already on campus as well (seven enrolled early) as is juco offensive guard Jarell Broxton. All could contribute this season.

TOP SIGNEES

1. KD Cannon, WR ★★★★★
2. Davion Hall, WR/ATH ★★★★
3. Terence Williams, ATH ★★★★

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Bryce Petty	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	174.3	250-403-3	62.0	4200	32	323.1

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Shock Linwood	12	128	881	6.9	8	73.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Antwan Goodley	13	71	1339	18.9	13	103.0

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Bryce Hager	9	46	25	71

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Jamal Palmer	13	5.0	31

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Terrell Burt	2	63	31.5	1

Antwan Goodley

GOODLEY: SUE OGROCKI / AP

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	BAY	OPP
SCORING	681	306
Points Per Game	52.4	23.5
FIRST DOWNS	372	242
Rushing	174	98
Passing	179	109
Penalty	19	35
RUSHING YARDAGE	3376	1886
Yards gained rushing	3664	2280
Yards lost rushing	288	394
Rushing Attempts	626	545
Average Per Rush	5.4	3.5
Average Per Game	259.7	145.1
TDs Rushing	47	15
PASSING YARDAGE	4668	2794
Comp-Att-Int	277-448-6	212-440-19
Average Per Pass	10.4	6.3
Average Per Catch	16.9	13.2
Average Per Game	359.1	214.9
TDs Passing	35	23
TOTAL OFFENSE	8044	4680
Total Plays	1074	985
Average Per Play	7.5	4.8
Average Per Game	618.8	360.0
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	48-1056	70-1401
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	28-238	12-202
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	19-441	6-120
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.0	20.0
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.5	16.8
INT RETURN AVG.	23.2	20.0
FUMBLES-LOST	28-10	27-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	120-1074	80-707
Average Per Game	82.6	54.4
PUNTS-YARDS	53-2379	96-4214
Average Per Punt	44.9	43.9
Net punt average	38.4	38.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	27:17	32:43
3RD-DOWN CONV.	95/202	74/218
3rd-Down Pct.	47%	34%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	13/25	7/28
4th-Down Pct.	52%	25%
SACKS BY-YARDS	32-197	22-113
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	91	41
FG-ATTEMPTS	15-24	7-11
ATTENDANCE	321639	188853
Games/Avg Per Game	7/45948	4/47213
Neutral Site Games		2/67180

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Baylor	208	199	164	110	0	681
Opponent	64	74	88	80	0	306

5-YEAR RECORD 40-24

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Bryce Petty (6-3, 230, Sr.)
	Seth Russell (6-3, 215, So.)
RB	Shock Linwood (5-9, 200, So.)
	Devin Chafin (6-0, 225, So.)
LT	Spencer Drango (6-6, 305, Jr.)
	Pat Colbert (6-6, 300, Jr.)
LG	LaQuan McGowan (6-7, 385, Jr.)
	Blake Muir (6-6, 300, Jr.)
C	Kyle Fuller (6-5, 305. So.)
	Tyler Edwards (6-6, 295, Sr.)
RG	Desmine Hilliard (6-5, 340, Jr.)
	Jarell Broxton (6-5, 330, Jr.)
RT	Troy Baker (6-7, 305, Sr.)
	Tyler Edwards (6-6, 295, Sr.)
WR	Corey Coleman (5-10, 190, So.)
	Clay Fuller (6-2, 205, Sr.)
WR	Levi Norwood (6-2, 200, Sr.)
	Lynx Hawthorne (6-0, 200. So.)
WR	Antwan Goodley (5-11, 225, Sr.)
	Davion Hall (6-2, 200, Fr.)
WR	Jay Lee (6-3, 215, Jr.)
	Robbie Rhodes (6-0, 190, So.)

Defense

DE	Shawn Oakman (6-9, 280, Jr.)
	K.J. Smith (6-2, 255, Fr.)
NT	Andrew Billings (6-2, 300, So.)
	Suleiman Masumbuko (6-2, 300, Jr.)
DT	Beau Blackshear (6-4, 300, Jr.)
	Javonte Magee (6-5, 280, So.)
DE	Jamal Palmer (6-3, 240, Jr.)
	Sam Ukwuachu (6-5, 245, Jr.)
WLB	Aiavion Edwards (6-1, 225, So.)
	Taylor Young (5-10, 225, Fr.)
MLB	Bryce Hager (6-2, 235, Sr.)
	Grant Campbell (6-1, 225, Jr.)
NIC	Collin Brence (6-0, 210, Sr.)
	Pat Levels (5-11, 195, So.)
CB	Terrence Singleton (5-11, 195, So.)
	Ryan Reid (5-11, 190, So.)
CB	Xavien Howard (6-2, 200, So.)
	Chris Sanders (6-1, 185, Jr.)
FS	Orion Stewart (6-2, 200, So.)
	Alfred Pullom (6-2, 185, Fr.)
SS	Terrell Burt (5-10, 185, Jr.)
	Taion Sells (5-10, 185, So.)

Specialists

K	Chris Callahan (5-9, 180, Fr.)
P	Spencer Roth (6-5, 220, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

TEXAS LONGHORNS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

BIG XII

3

Malcolm Brown

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	North Texas	
S.6	BYU	21-40
S.13	UCLA*	
S.27	@ KANSAS	35-13
O.4	Baylor	10-30
O.11	Oklahoma**	36-20
O.18	Iowa State	31-30
O.25	@ KANSAS STATE	31-21
N.1	@ TEXAS TECH	41-16
N.8	West Virginia	47-40
N.15	@ OKLAHOMA STATE	13-38
N.27	TCU	30-7

* At Arlington, TX
**At Dallas

COACH

Charlie Strong
First year
Career record: 37-16

Offensive coordinators: Joe Wickline (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Vance Bedford (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Lost to Oregon in the Alamo Bowl, 30-7)
Stadium: Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (100,119)
Tickets: 800-982-BEVO
Site: Austin, Texas
Website: texassports.com
Twitter: @Longhorn_FB

Headline writers can have a field day with a name like Charlie Strong. "Texas comin' on Strong tour" was touted on the school's website. "Texas Strong" has popped up in various places. A "Strong first impression" is expected on Aug. 30 when North Texas visits Austin for the opener.

So, yeah, Louisville's puns have arrived at Texas with the hope of similar success, at least the Strong teams over the past two seasons. The Cards went 11-2 in 2012 and thumped Florida in the Sugar Bowl, and 12-1 last year with a Russell Athletic Bowl rout of Miami.

Strong was the choice of new athletic director Steve Patterson. The extent of interest or depth of conversation among other rumored candidates like James Franklin, Jimbo Fisher or Art Briles may not be known until any or all write their autobiographies. Same with Nick Saban.

The hire was made in the days leading up to Florida State's defeat of Auburn for the BCS National Championship, and the immediate impression was Strong as the anti-Mack Brown.

Brown's personality was outgoing, his football approach started with offense.

Strong is friendly but reserved. One of the big questions upon his hiring was how willing would he be to work in the Texas fish bowl, with the all-access Longhorn Network, which frustrated even the media-cooperative Brown with its daily commitments.

That matters, but as long as he gets the on-field stuff right, the public relations should take care of itself.

Difference-maker

Malcolm Brown, RB

After two injury-plagued seasons, Brown finally broke out as a major threat in the backfield last year, rushing for 904 yards and nine touchdowns in the Longhorns' two-back attack. The All-Big 12 first-teamer surprised some by returning for his senior campaign, saying he wanted to complete his degree and play for new coach Charlie Strong.

Strong's background is defense. He helped shape Lou Holtz's units at South Carolina and coordinated two national championship defenses at Florida. Vance Bedford, Louisville's defensive coordinator and a former Texas player, followed Strong to Austin.

The Longhorns must improve on defense. Last season went off the rails in the second and third weeks when Texas surrendered a total of 84 points in losses to BYU and Ole Miss, and coordinator Manny Diaz was fired in between those games.

Texas suffered three more losses over the

BROWN: MICHAEL THOMAS / AP

course of the season and in each case the opponent reached at least 30 points. Injuries contributed to the decline, and this year's unit, led by a front four of tackles Malcom Brown and Desmond Jackson and end Cedric Reed, will be better.

Quarterback is the other area that differentiates Strong from Brown. Under Strong at Louisville, Teddy Bridgewater became one of the nation's best. At Texas, the failure to develop the position after a run of Major Applewhite, Chris Simms, Vince Young and Colt McCoy was Brown's biggest misplay.

Adding insult to injury, quarterbacks who were groomed in Texas high schools or wanted to be recruited by the Longhorns were having plenty of success elsewhere. The latest example was Florida State Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston, who said Texas was his first choice but never received a returned phone call from a coach.

The position is murky this season. David Ash was limited to three games in 2013 with concussion symptoms, and a fractured bone in his left foot shortened his spring workouts.

The speed and size of Tyrone Swoopes is reminiscent of Young, but he tested the waters last year and didn't appear ready. Two other signal-callers will figure into the mix. Top prospect Jerrod Heard was expected to arrive in June. Texas was also considered the leader at press time for transfer Max Wittek, formerly of USC.

With its top three backs returning, the running game, led by senior Malcolm Brown, should be the offensive strength, although Johnathan Gray won't be ready until August while recovering from a torn Achilles.

Strong's first two Louisville teams finished 7-6. Those won't be acceptable numbers at Texas. However, with a trip to Kansas as the team's only game outside the Lone Star State in the first seven weeks, the Longhorns should get off to a solid start.

BOTTOM LINE

Four years after playing for the national title, change was needed in Austin and Strong is determined to get Texas to the top. That's unlikely this season. The defense will be improved, but the Longhorns continue to be in game-management mode at quarterback.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

New coach Charlie Strong inherited a solid class from former Longhorns mentor Mack Brown and, along with it, one of the best receiver groups in the country. Foreman, Lorenzo Joe, Roderick Bernard, Dorian Leonard and Garrett Gray are versatile and talented wideouts who are the crown jewels of the nation's No. 17 class. What makes Heard an elite prospect is his ability to run, but he has enough of an arm to be very good in the passing game. The incoming staff signed two defensive tackles who had previously committed to Strong at Louisville—Chris Nelson from Lakeland, Fla., and Poona Ford out of Hilton Head, S.C. Had that not happened, the Longhorns would not have signed any prospects at that critical position for a second straight recruiting cycle.

TOP SIGNEES (247 STAR RATING)

1. Derick Roberson, DE ★★★★
2. Jerrod Heard, QB ★★★★
3. Armanti Foreman, WR ★★★★

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

David Ash	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	3	156.3	53-87-2	60.9	760	7	253.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Malcolm Brown	13	214	904	4.2	9	69.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jaxon Shipley	13	56	589	10.5	1	45.3

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Cedric Reed	13	36	43	79

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Cedric Reed	13	10.0	61

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Duke Thomas	3	19	6.3	0

David Ash

ASH: ERIC GAY / AP

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	TEX	OPP
SCORING	381	336
Points Per Game	29.3	25.8
FIRST DOWNS	273	275
Rushing	129	131
Passing	114	128
Penalty	30	16
RUSHING YARDAGE	2551	2380
Yards gained rushing	2768	2785
Yards lost rushing	217	405
Rushing Attempts	574	547
Average Per Rush	4.4	4.4
Average Per Game	196.2	183.1
TDs Rushing	25	21
PASSING YARDAGE	2762	2914
Comp-Att-Int	246-431-15	238-419-10
Average Per Pass	6.4	7.0
Average Per Catch	11.2	12.2
Average Per Game	212.5	224.2
TDs Passing	18	13
TOTAL OFFENSE	5313	5294
Total Plays	1005	966
Average Per Play	5.3	5.5
Average Per Game	408.7	407.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	41-862	44-1098
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	31-355	14-121
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	10-78	15-287
KICK RETURN AVG.	21.0	25.0
PUNT RETURN AVG.	11.5	8.6
INT RETURN AVG.	7.8	19.1
FUMBLES-LOST	16-7	30-16
PENALTIES-YARDS	67-597	99-884
Average Per Game	45.9	68.0
PUNTS-YARDS	76-3053	80-3370
Average Per Punt	40.2	42.1
Net punt average	37.8	36.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:17	29:43
3RD-DOWN CONV.	90/222	77/208
3rd-Down Pct.	41%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	11/24	5/13
4th-Down Pct.	46%	38%
SACKS BY-YARDS	39-239	16-94
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	46	39
FG-ATTEMPTS	20-22	21-27
ATTENDANCE	593857	274469
Games/Avg Per Game	6/98976	5/54894
Neutral Site Games		2/79209

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Texas	77	118	103	76	7	381
Opponent	70	101	83	82	0	336

5-YEAR RECORD 43-22

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	David Ash (6-3, 227, Jr.)
	Tyrone Swoopes (6-4, 241, So.)
RB	Malcolm Brown (6-0, 228, Sr.)
	Johnathan Gray (5-11, 210, Jr.)
LT	Desmond Harrison (6-8, 318, Sr.)
	Darius James (6-5, 311, Fr.)
LG	Sedrick Flowers (6-3, 317, Jr.)
	Curtis Riser (6-4, 327, So.)
C	Dominic Espinosa (6-4, 300, Sr.)
	Jake Raulerson (6-5, 279, Fr.)
RG	Taylor Doyle (6-5, 300, Jr.)
	Rami Hammad (6-5, 320, Fr.)
RT	Kennedy Estelle (6-7, 285, Jr.)
	Kent Perkins (6-5, 325, So.)
TE	Geoff Swaim (6-4, 242, Sr.)
	Greg Daniels (6-5, 243, Sr.)
WR	Marcus Johnson (6-1, 193, Jr.)
	Montrel Meander (6-3, 186, Fr.)
WR	Kendall Sanders (6-0, 190, Jr.)
	Jacorey Warrick (5-10, 174, So.)
WR	Jaxon Shipley (6-1, 193, Sr.)
	Daje Johnson (5-10, 180, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Cedric Reed (6-6, 271, Sr.)
	Caleb Bluiett (6-3, 264, So.)
DT	Malcom Brown (6-4, 320, Jr.)
	Paul Boyette Jr. (6-4, 292, So.)
DT	Desmond Jackson (6-1, 301, Sr.)
	Hassan Ridgeway (6-4, 309, So.)
DE	Shiro Davis (6-3, 258, Jr.)
	Bryce Cottrell (6-3, 241, So.)
SLB	Peter Jinkens (6-1, 230, Jr.)
	Tevin Jackson (6-2, 243, Sr.)
MLB	Steve Edmond (6-3, 252, Sr.)
	Dalton Santos (6-3, 243, Jr.)
WLB	Jordan Hicks (6-2, 244, Sr.)
	Timothy Cole (6-2, 232, So.)
CB	Quandre Diggs (5-10, 204, Sr.)
	Duke Thomas (5-11, 182, Jr.)
CB	Sheroid Evans (6-0, 188, Sr.)
	Bryson Echols (5-10, 185, So.)
FS	Mykkele Thompson (6-2, 183, Sr.)
	Adrian Colbert (6-2, 202, So.)
SS	Josh Turner (6-0, 179, Sr.)
	Chevoski Collins (5-11, 201, Fr.)

Specialists

K	Nick Jordan (6-1, 180, So.)
P	Will Russ (6-4, 198, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG XII
4

Desmond Roland

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Florida State*	
S.6	Missouri State	
S.13	Texas-San Antonio	56-35
S.25	Texas Tech	52-34
O.4	Iowa State	58-27
O.11	@ KANSAS	42-6
O.18	@ TCU	24-10
O.25	West Virginia	21-30
N.1	@ KANSAS STATE	33-29
N.15	Texas	38-13
N.22	@ BAYLOR	49-17
D.6	@ OKLAHOMA	24-33

* At Arlington, TX

COACH
Mike Gundy
10th year (77-38)
Career record: 77-38

Offensive coordinator: Mike Yurcich (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Glenn Spencer (fourth year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 10-3
(Lost to Missouri in the Cotton Bowl, 41-31)
Stadium: Boone Pickens Stadium (60,218)
Tickets: 877-ALL-4-OSU
Site: Stillwater, Okla.
Website: okstate.com
Twitter: @CowboyFB

It was a season of could-have-beens for Oklahoma State in 2013 because of the three losses. The Cowboys somehow became one of West Virginia's two league victims. And losses to Oklahoma and Missouri were winnable.

Before those final two defeats, the Cowboys crushed Baylor to take control of the league race, only to hand it back to the Bears with their Bedlam loss.

As disappointing as the finish was, Oklahoma State has reached a point where playing for league titles and high profile bowl games has become an annual goal, and that's true this season. The Cowboys should be in the thick of things if their defense can round into shape.

Seven starters–six who received all-conference recognition–must be replaced from a group that picked off 21 passes, third in the nation, and forced multiple turnovers in 10 of 13 games. Four different players won the Big 12's weekly defensive award. In all, it was a banner year for the Pokes defense.

"Technically, we lost seven starters, but it's more when you factor in guys who may not have started but played a lot of crucial snaps for us," defensive coordinator Glenn Spencer says.

The developmental process will be tested this year and Oklahoma State emerged from spring happy with the results, especially on the defensive line. James Castleman and Jimmy Bean return up front and depth should keep the line strong.

Linebacker and the secondary, especially at safety, is where the most replacement work must occur. The Cowboys will especially lean on cornerback Kevin Peterson, an 11-game starter in 2013. An answer at safety could be Michigan transfer Josh Furman.

The offense should come up bigger this season.

Difference-maker
Desmond Roland, RB

Roland didn't make his first start last year until the seventh game of the season against Iowa State. But that day he gave a performance that ensured he would be the Cowboys bell cow for the remainder of the season. The 6-2, 210 pound bull of a back rushed for 219 yards and four touchdowns in a 58-27 win, OSU's largest margin of victory against a conference opponent last year.

ROLAND: MICHAEL THOMAS/ AP

For the third straight year, the Cowboys will enter fall camp without having named a starter, but all signs point to J.W. Walsh, who has started at various points in his first two seasons in Stillwater. In spring ball, Walsh seemed to put some distance between himself and Daxx Garman and Mason Rudolph. Walsh had a pair of 300-plus yard games last season, and also rushed for 125 yards in the season opener against Mississippi State.

The program's next big offensive star could be junior Tyreek Hill, a speedster who could line up at running back or slot receiver, used in a similar fashion to former West Virginia standout Tavon Austin. Hill is already a Big 12 star. He won the 200-meter at the league's indoor meet, helping the Cowboys to the team title, and finished fifth in the event at the NCAA Championships. Gundy says he'd like to find ways to get the ball in Hill's hands 10-15 times a game.

Another possible breakout player is wide receiver Blake Webb, who missed much of last year with a foot injury. Like Hill, he has sprinter's speed.

Offensive line is a concern heading into 2014. Projected starting tackles Devin Davis and Brandon Garrett sat out this spring with injuries. Only one lineman, Daniel Koenig, has as many as eight career starts.

"We've got a young group," says first-year assistant coach Bob Connelly. "But for the most part, their hearts are in the right place."

Under Gundy, Oklahoma State often ranks among the best in the Big 12 in the kicking game, but that proved to be a letdown last season. Kicking woes were costly in the West Virginia loss. Kicker Ben Grogan was 11 of 18 on field goals last season but had a solid spring.

BOTTOM LINE

With several defensive replacements and new playmakers being groomed, it may be something of a transition year for Oklahoma State, although that's not how Mike Gundy would see it. The Cowboys have recruited to such a level in recent years that big drop-offs aren't expected when all-league players move on. That's why Oklahoma State gets the benefit of the doubt as a first division team this season.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Coach Mike Gundy and staff added instant playmaking ability on offense and special teams in the form of Hill, who has elite track speed and considered Florida State and Alabama before settling on the Cowboys. The Garden City (Kan.) CC juco star has already enrolled, along with Thomas and one of the top overall prospects in South Carolina, quarterback Mason Rudolph, who set records at Northwestern High in Rock Hill, S.C., a Palmetto State powerhouse that also produced Tennessee QB Justin Worley. There are 16 prospects from Texas in this class, perhaps none more intriguing than Jarrell Owens, a 6-3, 235-pound do-it-all running back from Palestine High, the alma mater of Adrian Peterson.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Tyreek Hill, RB/ATH ★★★★
2. Gyasi Akem, LB ★★★★
3. Devon Thomas, RB ★★★★

SEALES: BRANDON WADE / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

J.W. Walsh	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	8	128.8	113-190-5	59.5	1333	9	166.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Desmond Roland	13	176	811	4.6	13	62.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jhajuan Seales	13	39	571	14.6	3	43.9

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Ryan Simmons	13	50	17	67

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Jimmy Bean	13	4.5	24

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Kevin Peterson	2	30	15.0	0

Jhajuan Seales

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	OKLA ST	OPP
SCORING	508	281
Points Per Game	39.1	21.6
FIRST DOWNS	287	287
Rushing	107	115
Passing	153	143
Penalty	27	29
RUSHING YARDAGE	2235	1851
Yards gained rushing	2477	2228
Yards lost rushing	242	377
Rushing Attempts	503	508
Average Per Rush	4.4	3.6
Average Per Game	171.9	142.4
TDs Rushing	35	11
PASSING YARDAGE	3599	3153
Comp-Att-Int	280-484-13	290-541-21
Average Per Pass	7.4	5.8
Average Per Catch	12.9	10.9
Average Per Game	276.8	242.5
TDs Passing	26	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	5834	5004
Total Plays	987	1049
Average Per Play	5.9	4.8
Average Per Game	448.8	384.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	38-871	66-1237
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	30-408	19-199
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	21-337	13-140
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.9	18.7
PUNT RETURN AVG.	13.6	10.5
INT RETURN AVG.	16.0	10.8
FUMBLES-LOST	13-5	25-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	87-780	91-736
Average Per Game	60.0	56.6
PUNTS-YARDS	82-3201	89-3758
Average Per Punt	39.0	42.2
Net punt average	34.9	36.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	26:44	33:16
3RD-DOWN CONV.	76/196	72/229
3rd-Down Pct.	39%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/11	15/30
4th-Down Pct.	45%	50%
SACKS BY-YARDS	25-158	14-80
MISC YARDS	0	142
TDS SCORED	68	33
FG-ATTEMPTS	11-18	17-23
ATTENDANCE	354754	316632
Games/Avg Per Game	6/59126	5/63326
Neutral Site Games		2/54282

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Oklahoma St.	140	124	131	113	0	508
Opponent	58	77	30	116	0	281

5-YEAR RECORD 50-15

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	J.W. Walsh (6-2, 205, Jr.)
	Daxx Garman (6-2, 205, Jr.)
RB	Desmond Roland (6-2, 210, Sr.)
	Rennie Childs (5-10, 205, So.)
LT	Devin Davis (6-5, 312, So.)
	Michael Wilson (6-6, 300, So.)
LG	Daniel Koenig (6-6, 300, Sr.)
	Zac Veatch (6-4, 290, So.)
C	Paul Lewis (6-3, 295, So.)
	Grant Canis (6-2, 275, So.)
RG	Chris Grisbhy (6-5, 325, Sr.)
	Jack Kurzu (6-4, 305, Fr.)
RT	Brandon Garrett (6-5, 295, Sr.)
	Zachary Crabtree (6-7, 290, Fr.)
WR	Tyreek Hill (5-10, 185, Jr.)
	Austin Hays (6-2, 185, So.)
WR	Jhajuan Seales (6-2, 198, So.)
	C.J. Curry (6-2, 205, So.)
WR	David Glidden (5-7, 185, Jr.)
	Blake Webb (5-11, 190, So.)
WR	Marcell Ateman (6-4, 210, So.)
	Brandon Sheperd (6-1, 195, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Jimmy Bean (6-5, 250, Jr.)
	Trace Clark (6-4, 255, Jr.)
DT	James Castleman (6-2, 300, Sr.)
	Vincent Taylor (6-3, 290, Fr.)
DT	Ofa Hautau (6-2, 290, Sr.)
	Ben Hughes (6-3, 310, Fr.)
DE	Emmanuel Ogbah (6-4, 270, So.)
	Sam Wren (6-2, 255, Sr.)
OLB	Ryan Simmons (6-0, 235, Jr.)
	Dominic Ramacher (6-3, 230, So.)
MLB	Kris Catlin (6-1, 225, Jr.)
	Devante Averette (6-0, 235, Jr.)
OLB	Seth Jacobs (6-2, 220, So.)
	Demarcus Sherod (6-0, 225, So.)
CB	Kevin Peterson (5-11, 185, Jr.)
	Miketavius Jones (5-10, 175, Jr.)
CB	Ashton Lampkin (5-11, 180, Jr.)
	Darius Curry (6-1, 190, Fr.)
S	Jordan Sterns (6-1, 205, So.)
	Larry Stephens (5-10, 185, Sr.)
S	Tre Flowers (6-3, 190, Fr.)
	Deric Robertson (6-2, 200, So.)

Specialists

K	Ben Grogan (6-1, 186, So.)
P	Kip Smith (6-1, 235, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

BIG XII

5

Jake Waters

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Stephen F. Austin	
S.6	@ IOWA STATE	41-7
S.18	Auburn	
S.27	UTEP	
O.4	Texas Tech	49-26
O.18	@ OKLAHOMA	31-41
O.25	Texas	21-31
N.1	Oklahoma State	29-33
N.8	@ TCU	33-31
N.20	@ WEST VIRGINIA	35-12
N.29	Kansas	31-10
D.6	@ BAYLOR	25-35

COACH

Bill Snyder
23rd year (178-90-1)
Career record: 178-90-1

Offensive coordinators:
Dana Dimel (eighth year)
Del Miller (18th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Tom Hayes (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Beat Michigan in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, 31-14)
Stadium: Bill Snyder Family Stadium (50,000)
Tickets: 800-221-CATS
Site: Manhattan, Kan.
Website: kstatesports.com
Twitter: @kstatesports

Heading into last season, Jake Waters and Daniel Sams were locked in a battle for Kansas State's starting quarterback job and the winner was anybody's guess. Even the coaches.

Both players got their shot, and both are back this season. But Waters is the quarterback.

"My confidence is so much better (than) when I first came in last year," says Waters, who arrived from Iowa Western Community College.

Waters started all 13 games but split time with Sams. But the Wildcats' season turned with Waters' improvement. K-State started 2-4 but won six of its final seven, including a 31-14 decision over Michigan in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl.

Sams went to the coaching staff after the season and asked to be moved to wide receiver.

"The dialogue I had with Daniel was, 'I want you to be happy and see you on the field,'" K-State coach Bill Snyder says.

At 6-2 and 207 pounds with excellent speed, Sams has the chops to be a solid wideout, where he'd join a corps that includes Tyler Lockett, whose big-play knack is among the best in college football.

Lockett made All-Big 12 as a wide receiver and kick returner. He led the Big 12 with 105 receiving yards per game and was third in kick return average at 26.5 yards. His 440 all-purpose yards against Oklahoma was one of the most productive individual performances in the history of that game.

Another wide receiver weapon will be Andre Davis, who averaged more than 20 yards per catch in junior college.

The Wildcats have standouts all over the field. Center B.J. Finney and guard Cody Whitehair make Kansas State rugged up the middle. Defensive end Ryan Mueller was named the league's defensive lineman of the year and finished with 11 sacks. And big things will be expected of safety Dante Barnett.

BOTTOM LINE

With quarterback established, Kansas State could make a move to the top of the league standings. Plenty of buzz surrounds the Sept. 18 visit from Auburn.

Difference-maker

Jake Waters, QB

The Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl against Michigan was admittedly easy for Waters after he threw three first-half touchdowns in the 31-14 win. The versatile, athletic former juco All-American excelled as a passer in his first year in the Big 12 with 2,469 yards and 18 touchdowns. He was also a threat on the ground with 480 rushing yards.

5-YEAR RECORD 42-22

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Jake Waters (6-1, 210, Sr.)
RB	DeMarcus Robinson (5-7, 209, Sr.)
FB	Glenn Gronkowski (6-3, 234, So.)
LT	Luke Hayes (6-6, 295, Jr.)
LG	Cody Whitehair (6-4, 309, Jr.)
C	B.J. Finney (6-4, 303, Sr.)
RG	Boston Stiverson (6-4, 312, Jr.)
RT	Matt Kleinsorge (6-5, 306, Jr.)
TE	Zach Trujillo (6-5, 256, Sr.)
WR	Tyler Lockett (5-11, 175, Sr.)
WR	Curry Sexton (5-11, 183, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Marquel Bryant (6-3, 241, Jr.)
DT	Travis Britz (6-4, 293, Jr.)
DT	Valentino Coleman (6-2, 285, Sr.)
DE	Ryan Mueller (6-4, 245, Jr.)
LB	Jonathan Truman (5-11, 219, Sr.)
LB	Dakorey Johnson (6-2, 200, Sr.)
LB	Charmeachalle Moore (6-0, 217, Jr.)
CB	Morgan Burns (5-11, 195, Jr.)
CB	Randall Evans (6-0, 190, Sr.)
S	Dante Barnett (6-1, 186, Jr.)
S	Dylan Schellenberg (6-0, 189, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Jack Cantele (6-0, 193, Jr.)
P	Mitch Lochbihler (6-6, 240, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

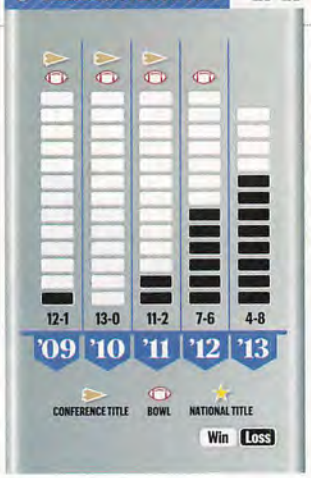
1. **Terrell Clinkscales,** DT ★★★★
2. **D'Vonta Derricott,** LB ★★★
3. **Dalton Risner,** C ★★★

The Wildcats are one of the best in the country at hitting the junior-college ranks and this group of nine—led by Clinkscales, Derricott and offensive tackle Luke Haynes—was one of the better hauls nationally (the class ranked No. 49 overall). They also won some big regional battles. Coach Bill Snyder added linebacker Elijah Lee, running back Dalvin Warmack and safety Kaleb Prewett from Blue Springs (Mo.) High and plucked a pair of offensive linemen—center Dalton Risner and tackle Alec Ruth—out of Colorado. Cornerback Danzel McDaniel is a 6-2, 205-pounder who was coveted by many during the cycle.

WATERS: ROSS D. FRANKLIN / AP

TCU HORNED FROGS

5-YEAR RECORD 47-17



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Trevone Boykin (6-2, 215, Jr.)
RB B.J. Catalon (5-9, 190, Jr.)
LT Aviante Collins (6-6, 285, Jr.)
LG Jamelle Naff (6-4, 325, Jr.)
C Joey Hunt (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RG Brady Foltz (6-4, 325, Jr.)
RT Halapoulivaati Vaitai (6-6, 308, Jr.)
TE Cliff Murphy (6-4, 265, Sr.)
WR Ja'Juan Story (6-4, 208, Jr.)
WR David Porter (6-0, 197, Sr.)
WR Josh Doctson (6-4, 190, Jr.)

Defense

DE James McFarland (6-3, 248, Jr.)
DT Chucky Hunter (6-1, 300, Sr.)
DT Davion Pierson (6-2, 305, Jr.)
DE Devonte Fields (6-4, 240, So.)
SLB Marcus Mallet (6-1, 227, Sr.)
MLB Jonathan Anderson (6-3, 227, Sr.)
CB Ranthony Texada (5-10, 160, Fr.)
CB Kevin White (5-10, 174, Sr.)
WS Chris Hackett (6-2, 195, Jr.)
FS Derrick Kindred (5-10, 210, Jr.)
SS Sam Carter (6-1, 215, Sr.)

Specialists

K Jaden Oberkrom (6-3, 187, Jr.)
P Ethan Perry (6-4, 230, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Varshaun Nixon,** RB ★★★★
2. **Foster Sawyer,** QB ★★★
3. **Emanuel Porter,** WR ★★★

The Horned Frogs inked the No. 42 class nationally and finished the 2014 cycle with a couple of big wins—flipping Nixon from Texas A&M and holding off LSU and Texas for the 6-5, 200-pound Porter, who has huge upside. Versatile offensive lineman Ty Barrett was a local win from Dallas Skyline; nearly everyone wanted him and the Frogs snagged him. Three prospects from Louisiana—receiver Corey McBride and athlete Torrance Mosley from Dutchtown in Geismar and linebacker Chris Bradley of Shreveport Evangel Christian—are intriguing.

Trevone Boykin

As far as coaching moves go, this one made a splash.

Sonny Cumbie, a former record-setting quarterback at Texas Tech who served as the Red Raiders' co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach, became rival TCU's co-coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

In Fort Worth, Cumbie and fellow coordinator Doug Meacham are creating a new offense, hopefully one similar to the one Cumbie guided for Tech in 2004 when he helped Tech score 70 on the Frogs.

The new attack has been described as plucking the best elements of Mike Leach's Texas Tech uptempo attack along with the balance of Oklahoma State, where Meacham served for eight years.

"We're going to a style of offense I thought evened the playing field," TCU coach Gary Patterson says. "To be honest, I have no problem winning 45-31."

Defense has been the Horned Frogs' calling card under Patterson, but TCU is 6-12 in two years of Big 12 play and averaged 25.1 points last season, its lowest output in a decade.

The question is, who will operate the offense that will be predicated on tempo?

Trevone Boykin has started 15 games over the past two years at quarterback, forced into action by suspension or injury to Casey Pachall.

Boykin emerged from spring as the starter and can be a playmaker, but it's a shaky hold. Tyler Matthews is in the mix, as are a pair of freshmen—Grayson Muehstein and Forest Sawyer.

TCU's defense was stout as usual last season, and should be again this year. End Devonte Fields, the Big 12 Freshman of the Year in 2012, appears set to reclaim his position as one of the league's top defenders.

The line is strong with tackles Chucky Hunter and Davion Pierson. The secondary will miss Jason Verrett, but his expected replacement, Ranthony Texada, had a good spring.

Difference-maker

Trevone Boykin, QB

Boykin brings new meaning to the term "all-purpose." In 2013, he was the only player in the nation to have a 100-yard rushing game, a 100-yard receiving game and a 200-yard passing game, catching defenses off-guard in the roles of receiver and "specialty quarterback." The 6-2, 215-pound junior is now charged with leading the Horned Frogs' offense under center in 2014.

BOTTOM LINE

The Horned Frogs fell to 4-8 last season and missed a bowl game for the first time since 2004 because they couldn't score enough. TCU will have to lean on its defense again as the offense works out the kinks adjusting to a new system.

6 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG XII

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Samford	
S.13	Minnesota	
S.27	@ SMU	48-17
O.4	Oklahoma	17-20
O.11	@ BAYLOR	38-41
O.18	Oklahoma State	10-24
O.25	Texas Tech	10-20
N.1	@ WEST VIRGINIA	27-30
N.8	Kansas State	31-33
N.15	@ KANSAS	27-17
N.27	@ TEXAS	7-30
D.6	Iowa State	21-17

COACH

Gary Patterson
15th year (120-44)
Career record: 120-44

Offensive coordinators:
Sonny Cumbie (first year)
Doug Meacham (first year)
Defensive coordinator:
Dick Bumpas (11th year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 4-8
Stadium: Amon G. Carter Stadium (45,000)
Tickets: 877-TCU-FROG
Site: Fort Worth, Texas
Website: gofrogs.com
Twitter: @TCUFootball

BOYKIN: CHARLIE NEIBERGALL / AP

WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG XII
7

Dreamius Smith

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Alabama*	
S.6	Towson	
S.13	@ MARYLAND	0-37
S.20	Oklahoma	
O.4	Kansas	19-31
O.11	@ TEXAS TECH	27-37
O.18	Baylor	42-73
O.25	@ OKLAHOMA STATE	30-21
N.1	TCU	30-27
N.8	@ TEXAS	40-47
N.20	Kansas State	12-35
N.29	@ IOWA STATE	44-52

* At Atlanta

COACH
Dana Holgorsen
Fourth year (21-17)
Career record: 21-17

Offensive coordinator: Shannon Dawson (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Tony Gibson (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 4-8
Stadium: Milan Puskar Stadium (60,000)
Tickets: 800-WVU-GAME
Site: Morgantown, W.Va.
Website: wvusports.com
Twitter: @WVUfootball

Last season was a crazy one at quarterback for most Big 12 schools. Nine of the 10 programs had some type of shuffle going on. But the uncertainty plagued West Virginia more than most in the first post-Geno Smith season.

Three quarterbacks rotated and none gained much traction in a 4-8 campaign.

"I had never done that before," Mountaineers coach Dana Holgorsen recalls. "And I think we would all agree that wasn't the answer."

This season, West Virginia has plenty of candidates, including two of the three who started last year: Paul Millard and Clint Trickett. Also in the fold are junior-college transfer Skyler Howard, freshman William Crest and walk-on senior Logan Moore.

And the first opponent is Alabama on Aug. 30.

Holgorsen and offensive coordinator Shannon Dawson say the starter will be named in the first week of August. Trickett had shoulder surgery in January and missed spring ball, and Crest arrives on campus in the summer. Those two might be the favorites, although Millard had the best numbers in the spring game.

The Mountaineers should have one of the Big 12's top stables of running backs, featuring the team's top rusher in 2011, Dustin Garrison, and 2012 (Andrew Buie). Dreamius Smith, who averaged 4.8 yards per carry last year, looks like the front-runner to start.

Along the offensive line, West Virginia is set in the middle with center Tyler Orlosky and guards Quinton Spain and Mark Glowinski. Daikiel Shorts is the team's top returning receiver.

The Mountaineers look to improve on some woeful defensive numbers, ranking ninth in the league in points (33.3 per game) and yards allowed (455.0). Linebacker is the strength with plenty of starting experience returning, and cornerback Daryl Worley, who started five games last season, was a star in spring workouts.

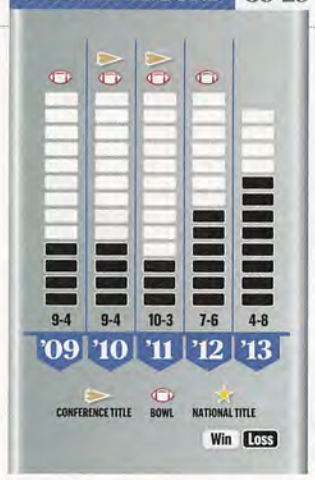
Difference-maker
Dreamius Smith, RB

Smith rushed for five touchdowns and 494 yards in 2013, averaging 4.8 yards per carry while playing behind Charles Sims. As the top returning rusher for the Mountaineers, the former juco All-American is part of a deep, competitive WVU backfield corps. What sets the 5-11, 217-pound senior apart is his big-play ability: Last year he had four runs of 38 yards or more, including a 75-yard touchdown.

BOTTOM LINE

Last season was a gut punch, the worst season since 2001. Mountaineer fans had seen a steady diet of nine, 10, 11 victory seasons. Returning to that level will be difficult this year with the schedule.

5-YEAR RECORD 39-25



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Paul Millard (6-2, 230, Sr.)
HB Cody Clay (6-4, 256, Jr.)
RB Dreamius Smith (5-11, 224, Sr.)
LT Adam Pankey (6-6, 304, So.)
LG Quinton Spain (6-5, 342, Sr.)
C Tyler Orlosky (6-4, 299, So.)
RG Mark Glowinski (6-5, 306, Sr.)
RT Marquis Lucas (6-4, 312, Jr.)
WR Mario Alford (5-8, 174, Sr.)
WR Daikiel Shorts (6-1, 197, So.)
WR Kevin White (6-3, 208, Sr.)

Defense
DE Dontrill Hyman (6-4, 294, Sr.)
NT Christian Brown (6-3, 304, So.)
DE Kyle Rose (6-4, 293, Jr.)
WLB Brandon Golson (6-2, 230, Sr.)
MLB Nick Kwiatkoski (6-2, 230, Jr.)
SLB Isaiah Bruce (6-2, 232, Jr.)
SPUR KJ Dillon (6-1, 207, Jr.)
CB Ishmael Banks (6-0, 180, Sr.)
CB Daryl Worley (6-1, 200, So.)
FS Jeremy Tyler (5-11, 202, So.)
SS Karl Joseph (5-10, 194, Jr.)

Specialists
K Josh Lambert (5-11, 210, So.)
P Nick O'Toole (6-3, 215, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES
247 STAR RATING
1 ▸ **Dravon Henry,** ATH ★★★★
2 ▸ **Donte Thomas-Williams,** RB ★★★★
3 ▸ **William Crest,** QB ★★★

A pair of quarterbacks—including junior-college transfer Skyler Howard, who has already enrolled and will contend for the starting job, and the strong-armed Crest—are the talk of this solid Mountaineer class that ranked No. 37 nationally, according to 247Sports. There is much more to talk about, though. Henry was thought to be the top overall prospect in Pennsylvania for the '14 cycle, Thomas-Williams was heavily recruited out of North Carolina, and there are five Florida prospects—including speedy receivers Lamar Parker and Jacob McCrary—heading to Morgantown.

SMITH: SUE OGROCKI / AP

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

5-YEAR RECORD 38-26

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Davis Webb (6-4, 195, So.)
RB	DeAndre Washington (5-8, 190, Jr.)
LT	Le'Raven Clark (6-5, 320, Jr.)
LG	Alfredo Morales (6-3, 320, Jr.)
C	Jared Kaster (6-3, 275, Jr.)
RG	Trey Keenan (6-6, 270, So.)
RT	Reshod Fortenberry (6-5, 285, Sr.)
WR	D.J. Polite-Bray (6-1, 175, So.)
WR	Jakeem Grant (5-6, 160, Jr.)
WR	Bradley Marquez (5-11, 200, Sr.)
WR	Reginald Davis (6-0, 190, So.)

Defense

DE	Branden Jackson (6-4, 240, Jr.)
DT	Jackson Richards (6-4, 275, Jr.)
DT	Demetrius Alston (6-3, 260, Jr.)
DE	Pete Robertson (6-3, 225, Jr.)
OLB	V.J. Fehoko (5-11, 225, Sr.)
MLB	Sam Eguavoen (6-1, 220, Sr.)
OLB	Kenny Williams (5-9, 225, Sr.)
CB	Justis Nelson (6-2, 170, So.)
CB	La'Darius Newbold (5-11, 195, So.)
FS	J.J. Gaines (5-10, 180, So.)
SS	Keenon Ward (5-9, 195, So.)

Specialists

K	Ryan Bustin (5-11, 180, Sr.)
P	Taylor Symmank (6-2, 185, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Payton Hendrix,** S ★★★
2. **Nigel Bethel,** CB ★★★
3. **Patrick Mahomes,** QB ★★★

The Red Raiders finished with the No. 41 class nationally and the strength is in the secondary, led by Hendrix, Bethel and 6-2 junior-college corner Josh Keys, who has already enrolled. Mahomes is a 6-3 gunslinger from Whitehouse, Texas, who fits perfectly into the Red Raiders' system. Offensive tackle Dominique Robertson and defensive tackle Rika Levi arrived from the California juco ranks this offseason and could help right away. Running back Justin Stockton from Cibolo Steele and wide receiver Jakari Dillard of Princeton are two in-state prep products to watch.

Davis Webb

Bowl games are merely exhibitions, right? An island of a contest, disconnected to any relationship of the season. At least that's the loser's lament.

The winners see it differently, and that's why beating Arizona State in the Holiday Bowl was so important to Texas Tech last year.

The Red Raiders had started 7-0 and climbed into the top 10 in coach Kliff Kingsbury's first year. But they dropped the next five and looked lost. Beating the Sun Devils changed the narrative for 2013, and allowed Tech to look ahead with enthusiasm,

"That's how you build for the future," Kingsbury says. "We have a lot more confidence than we did last year."

Unlike last season, Tech won't enter the season with a quarterback derby. Davis Webb didn't start the opener last year but he finished it with 403 yards and four touchdowns against Arizona State and is this team's undisputed leader.

Webb worked hard to build up his body in the offseason and it showed in a spring game performance of 354 yards and four scores. Maybe the most impressive play was a long touchdown run that was called back.

There will be new targets with the losses of Jace Amaro and Eric Ward, but a terrific one returns in speedster Jakeem Grant, whose 65 receptions last year included seven touchdowns, two in the bowl game.

Kenny Williams, the team's top rusher the past two seasons, is back, and he doesn't want to leave the field. Williams approached coaches about playing linebacker, and Tech complied. Williams is likely to take snaps on both sides of the ball.

Defense is where the rebuilding is taking place and that's why Tech went heavy on the junior-college route in recruiting. The Red Raiders must improve here. They ranked 114th in turnover margin last season.

BOTTOM LINE

Even with a five-game losing streak, year one of the Kingsbury era was deemed a success. Now, it's time to build, and the Red Raiders have some nice pieces, starting with Webb.

Difference-maker

Davis Webb, QB

Making his first start in Tech's sixth game as a true freshman, the 6-4 Webb made himself comfortable in the Red Raiders' wide-open offense, throwing 20 touchdown passes on the season. He put up huge numbers in several games, going 45-for-71 against Oklahoma State and accumulating 462 passing yards against West Virginia. He won Offensive MVP honors in Tech's 37-23 postseason win over Arizona State, tying a Holiday Bowl record with four TD passes. Webb will have a full year as the starting gunslinger in 2014.

8

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

BIG XII

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Central Arkansas	
S.6	@ UTEP	
S.13	Arkansas	
S.25	@ OKLAHOMA STATE	34-52
O.4	@ KANSAS STATE	26-49
O.11	West Virginia	37-27
O.18	Kansas	54-16
O.25	@ TCU	20-10
N.1	Texas	16-41
N.15	Oklahoma	30-38
N.22	@ IOWA STATE	42-35
N.29	Baylor*	34-63

* At Arlington, TX

COACH

Kliff Kingsbury

Second year (8-5)

Career record: 8-5

Offensive coordinator: Eric Morris (second year)

Defensive coordinators: Matt Wallerstedt (second year), Mike Smith (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5

(Beat Arizona State in the Holiday Bowl, 37-23)

Stadium: Jones AT&T Stadium (60,862)

Tickets: 806-742-8324

Site: Lubbock, Texas

Website: texastech.com

Twitter: @TechAthletics

WEBB: CHRIS JACKSON / AP

IOWA STATE CYCLONES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG XII
9

Quenton Bundrage

Iowa State doesn't win conference championships or play in major bowls. But the program has a well-earned reputation as a scrapper, unwilling to back down from the higher-profile programs. Until last year, the Cyclones had defeated a ranked team on the road in each of the previous three seasons.

That's what made 2013 so difficult. A 3-9 record included two Big 12 victories. But Iowa State showed fight until the end, rolling Kansas and winning at West Virginia in triple overtime to end the season.

And the fans didn't waver. Iowa State set an attendance record last year, averaging 55,361 and attracting the three largest crowds in school history.

The fans should be rewarded with an improved team this year.

Five offensive line starters, led by center Tom Farniok (35 career starts makes him the most experienced offensive lineman in the Big 12), should help open an offense guided by quarterback Grant Rohach. He started the final four games and threw for 631 yards in the two conference victories.

Coach Paul Rhoads says the competition isn't over. Sam Richardson, who started much of last season, and Joel Lanning remain in the mix.

Running backs Aaron Wimberly, who rushed for 567 yards, and DeVondrick Nealy, wide receiver Quenton Bundrage and tight end E.J.Bibbs are the Cyclones' biggest weapons in the offense that will be guided by former Kansas head coach Mark Mangino.

The bigger concerns are on the defensive side. Linebacker Luke Knott is still recovering from a hip injury. End Cory Morrissey should take the next step and become a standout. Cornerback Nigel Tribune is the leader in the secondary.

Punter Kirby Van Der Kamp, a four-year weapon, has moved on, and the job could go to a freshman, Holden Kramer.

BOTTOM LINE

If the defense can come around, Iowa State has a chance to be one of the league's most improved teams and return to their postseason ways.

Difference-maker

Quenton Bundrage, WR

Bundrage emerged last season as the Cyclones' top playmaking receiver, finishing as the team leader in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns as a sophomore. The 6-2 Floridian's nine scores placed him third among Big 12 receivers and included a 97-yard scamper that tied the conference record for longest reception.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	North Dakota State	
S.6	Kansas State	7-41
S.13	@ IOWA	21-27
S.27	Baylor	7-71
O.4	@ OKLAHOMA STATE	27-58
O.11	Toledo	
O.18	@ TEXAS	30-31
N.1	Oklahoma	10-48
N.8	@ KANSAS	34-0
N.22	Texas Tech	35-42
N.29	West Virginia	52-44
D.6	@ TCU	17-21

COACH

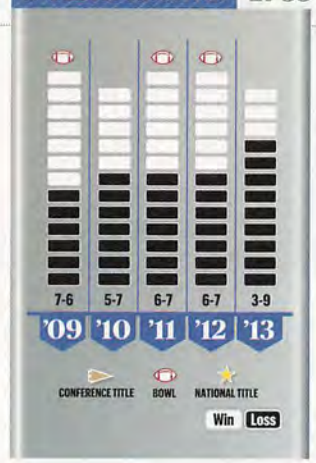
Paul Rhoads
Sixth year (27-36)
Career record: 27-36

Offensive coordinator: Mark Mangino (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Wally Burnham (sixth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 3-9
Stadium: Jack Trice Stadium (56,800)
Tickets: 888-478-2925
Site: Ames, Iowa
Website: cyclones.com
Twitter: @CycloneFB

5-YEAR RECORD 27-36



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Grant Rohach (6-1, 224, So.)
RB	Aaron Wimberly (5-9, 174, Sr.)
LT	Brock Dagel (6-8, 303, Jr.)
LG	Daniel Burton (6-5, 320, So.)
C	Tom Farniok (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RG	Jamison Lalk (6-6, 303, Jr.)
RT	Jacob Gannon (6-7, 301, Sr.)
TE	E.J. Bibbs (6-3, 261, Sr.)
WR	Dondre Daley (6-1, 191, So.)
WR	Jarvis West (5-7, 177, Sr.)
WR	Quenton Bundrage (6-2, 191, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Mitchell Meyers (6-4, 262, So.)
DT	Pierre Aka (6-4, 285, So.)
NG	Devlyn Cousin (6-1, 295, So.)
DE	Cory Morrissey (6-4, 260, Sr.)
SLB	Drake Ferch (5-11, 212, Sr.)
MLB	Kane Seeley (6-1, 240, So.)
WLB	Jevohn Miller (6-1, 243, Sr.)
CB	Nigel Tribune (5-10, 183, So.)
CB	Kenneth Lynn (5-10, 166, Jr.)
FS	Kamari Cotton-Moya (6-0, 190, Fr.)
SS	T.J. Mutcherson (5-11, 203, So.)

Specialists

K	Cole Netten (6-1, 213, So.)
P	Holden Kramer (6-2, 183, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1 ▸ **Allen Lazard,** WR ★★★★
2 ▸ **Michael Warren,** RB ★★★
3 ▸ **Mike Johnson,** CB ★★★

The Cyclones survived a push from Notre Dame and others to nab the 6-4, 207-pound Lazard, a legacy, and he should be one of the impact freshmen this season in the Big 12. The U.S. Army All-American is a big, fast target with excellent hands that should quickly become a weapon. Three junior-college players—safety Devron Moore, end Gabe Luna and linebacker Jordan Harris—have already enrolled and could provide depth on defense. Another juco, defensive end Terry Ayeni of New Mexico Military Institute, could be a steal. The Cyclones nabbed three Floridians in the class, led by Johnson.

BUNDRAGE: JUSTIN HAYWORTH / AP

KANSAS JAYHAWKS

10 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
BIG XII

5-YEAR RECORD 14-46

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Montell Cozart (6-2, 195, So.)
RB	Brandon Bourbon (6-2, 225, Sr.)
LT	Pat Lewandowski (6-5, 290, Sr.)
LG	Ngalu Fusimalohi (6-2, 315, Sr.)
C	Keyon Haughton (6-2, 300, Jr.)
RG	Mike Smithburg (6-3, 305, Sr.)
RT	Damon Martin (6-3, 305, Jr.)
TE	Jimmay Mundine (6-2, 240, Jr.)
WR	Rodriguez Coleman (6-3, 190, Jr.)
WR	Nick Harwell (6-1, 193, Sr.)
WR	Tony Pierson (5-11, 175, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Ben Goodman (6-3, 250, Jr.)
NT	Keon Stowers (6-3, 297, Sr.)
DT	Andrew Bolton (6-3, 285, Jr.)
LB	Michael Reynolds (6-1, 240, Sr.)
LB	Ben Heeney (6-0, 230, Sr.)
LB	Jake Love (6-0, 220, Jr.)
CB	JaCorey Shepherd (5-11, 195, Sr.)
CB	Dexter McDonald (6-1, 205, Sr.)
CB	Kevin Short (6-2, 190, Jr.)
SS	Isaiah Johnson (6-1, 210, Jr.)
FS	Cassius Sendish (6-0, 195, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Matthew Wyman (6-2, 200, So.)
P	Trevor Pardula (6-5, 212, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Traevohn Wrench,** RB ★★★
2. **Kyron Watson,** LB ★★★
3. **Anthony Olobia,** DE ★★★

All things considered, this Jayhawks class, which ranked No. 55 nationally, filled some needs and features solid playmaking talent on the offensive side. While Wrench and Watson were the big regional grabs, keep an eye on talented athlete Derrick Neal, whom Kansas snagged out of Lincoln High in Dallas. Neal is as dynamic as they come and could help on either side of the ball, and most certainly special teams. Cornerback Matthew Boateng of IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla., is a Canadian who is considered a sleeper at 6-1 and 175 pounds.

Ben Heeney

Even for a historically mediocre program–an all-time record of 580-591-58–Kansas has been especially downtrodden for the past few seasons.

The program has lost 39 games since 2010, the most over a four-year stretch in the school's history. There have been two conference victories in that span.

Several players who were part of the Jayhawks' last successful period, the 2007 and 2008 teams that won bowl games, spoke to this this year's group before the spring game and delivered the message "enough is enough," quarterback Montell Cozart said.

But the team didn't inspire confidence in the spring game when coach Charlie Weis pitted starters against reserves with the idea of flipping the score at halftime to give the starters experience with playing from behind. The problem? The reserves *led* 7-0 at halftime.

There was a small breakthrough last year. Kansas beat West Virginia to end a multiyear losing streak in conference games.

Hope for improvement lies in some nice pieces returning. Linebacker Ben Heeney and defensive backs Isaiah Johnson and Dexter McDonald earned all-league honors last season, as did kick returner JaCorey Shepherd, punter Trevor Pardula and tight end Jimmay Mundine.

Gone is 1,100-yard rusher and hard worker James Sims, but Kansas has a nice stable of running backs led by Brandon Bourbon, Darrian Miller and Taylor Cox. The Jayhawks are thrilled to have wide receiver Nick Harwell, who in three seasons at Miami of Ohio had 229 receptions for 3,166 yards.

Who will throw to him? The quarterbacks who started every game, Jake Heaps and Cozart, are back, along with UCLA transfer T.J. Millweard. Cozart had the best spring game and in an offense operated by new coordinator John Reagan, Cozart might be the best fit with his ability to escape danger.

Difference-maker

Ben Heeney, LB

Even while missing two conference games, Heeney led the Jayhawks in tackles with 88 and recorded 11.5 tackles for loss in just 10 games. With a penchant for finding himself around the ball, the 6-0, 230-pound senior also broke up three passes and brought down three interceptions. The Kansas defense will be built around the two-time second-team All-Big 12 pick.

BOTTOM LINE

It figures to be better at Kansas, but bowl eligibility may be asking too much. If the Jayhawks can snag another league game or two, that would be progress.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
S.6	Southeast Missouri State	
S.13	@ DUKE	
S.20	Central Michigan	
S.27	Texas	13-35
O.4	@ WEST VIRGINIA	31-19
O.11	Oklahoma State	6-42
O.18	@ TEXAS TECH	16-54
N.1	@ BAYLOR	14-59
N.8	Iowa State	0-34
N.15	TCU	17-27
N.22	@ OKLAHOMA	19-34
N.29	@ KANSAS STATE	10-31

COACH

Charlie Weis
Third year (4-20)
Career record: 39-47

Offensive coordinator: John Reagan (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Dave Campo (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 3-9
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (50,071)
Tickets: 800-34-HAWKS
Site: Lawrence, Kan.
Website: kuathletics.com
Twitter: @KU_Football

HEENEY: REED HOFFMANN / AP

C-USA

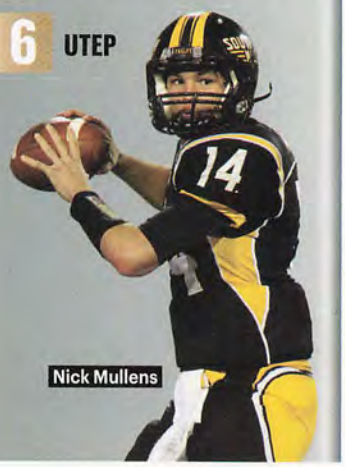
PROJECTED FINISH

EAST

1. **MARSHALL** — Bowl Projection: Miami Beach Bowl
2. **WESTERN KENTUCKY** — Bowl Projection: St. Petersburg Bowl
3. **MIDDLE TENNESSEE** — Bowl Projection: Boca Raton Bowl
4. **FLORIDA ATLANTIC**
5. **OLD DOMINION**
6. **UAB**
7. **FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL**

WEST

1. **RICE** — Bowl Projection: Hawaii Bowl
2. **TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO** — Bowl Projection: New Mexico Bowl
3. **LOUISIANA TECH**
4. **NORTH TEXAS**
5. **SOUTHERN MISS**
6. **UTEP**



Nick Mullens

Rakeem Cato

In a league that's ever evolving, fans will see familiar names at the top of C-USA this season

BY MICHAEL GRANT | *The Courier-Journal (Louisville, Ky.)*

Another year, another brand-new look for Conference USA. The league will say hello to Western Kentucky and Old Dominion and goodbye to East Carolina, Tulane and Tulsa, who are leaving for the American Athletic Conference. The league will also add Charlotte to its football lineup in 2015.

The 13-team setup for 2014 means there will be seven teams in the East Division (Florida International, Florida Atlantic, Marshall, Middle Tennessee, Old Dominion, UAB and Western Kentucky) and six in the West (Louisiana Tech, North Texas, Rice, Southern Miss, UTEP and Texas-San Antonio).

Between the two newcomers this fall, WKU is most ready to be competitive. The Hilltoppers were 8-4 last year and 4-3 in the Sun Belt Conference. They will have a new coach, as Jeff Brohm was promoted from offensive coordinator to replace Bobby Petrino, who left for Louisville.

Western is one of five former Sun Belt teams that have recently moved to C-USA (along with Middle Tennessee, North Texas, FAU and FIU). Familiarity with those schools should ease the transition. And Brohm was a UAB assistant in 2012, so he knows the league.

Old Dominion will have a tougher road since it will be a full-fledged FBS member this year after transitioning from the FCS. The Monarchs could have a puncher's chance behind prolific passer Taylor Heinicke.

The major storyline to watch this fall will be whether Marshall can go undefeated. The Thundering Herd's schedule certainly lends itself to that possibility. They should be favored to win all of their games behind dynamic senior quarterback Rakeem Cato. Last season, Cato wasn't as accurate as he was as a sophomore, but he was still the league's Offensive Player of the Year.

Who could challenge Marshall? Rice beat the Herd in last year's conference title game. The Owls, however, are replacing a quarterback as Driphus Jackson is set to take over for graduated three-year starter Taylor McHargue. Also, the Owls could get some serious competition in the West from UTSA. The Roadrunners have 19 returning starters and have quickly become a contender in the league.

The league will have three first-year coaches: Brohm, UAB's Bill Clark and FAU's Charlie Partridge.

TRENDING

Three stories to watch

1 **Rakeem running the table?: Can Marshall and All-America QB candidate Rakeem Cato go unbeaten against a favorable league slate and what has to be termed a "soft" nonconference schedule?**

RECRUITING RANKINGS
by 247Sports

247 COMPOSITE

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL PLAYERS	★★★★★ 5-STAR RECRUITS	★★★★ 4-STAR RECRUITS	★★★ 3-STAR RECRUITS	POINTS
1	Marshall	27	0	1	13	162.54
2	Old Dominion	31	0	0	15	141.51
3	Louisiana Tech	20	0	0	7	124.81
4	Southern Miss	23	0	0	8	123.66
5	Middle Tennessee	23	0	0	8	122.13
6	Western Kentucky	27	0	0	9	121.60
7	Rice	19	0	0	5	116.38
8	Florida Atlantic	23	0	0	7	114.90
9	North Texas	21	0	0	5	105.66
10	Florida International	25	0	0	3	102.38
11	UAB	32	0	0	3	96.59
12	UTEP	23	0	0	4	85.83
13	Texas-San Antonio	16	0	0	2	81.76

ALL-CONFERENCE USA

Offense

QB **Rakeem Cato,** Sr., Marshall
RB **Steward Butler,** Jr., Marshall
RB **Kenneth Dixon,** Jr., Louisiana Tech
OL **Chris Jasperse,** Sr., Marshall
OL **Clint Van Horn,** Jr., Marshall
OL **Mason Y'Barbo,** Sr., North Texas
OL **Scott Inskeep,** Sr., UTSA
OL **Cyril Lemon,** Sr., North Texas
WR **Tommy Shuler,** Sr., Marshall
WR **Jamarcus Nelson,** Sr., UAB
WR **Jordan Taylor,** Sr., Rice

Defense

DL **Christian Covington,** Jr., Rice
DL **Gary Thompson,** So., Marshall
DL **Jimal McBride,** So., Middle Tennessee
DL **Ra'Shawde Myers,** Sr., Marshall
LB **T.T. Barber,** Jr., Middle Tennessee
LB **Jermaine Holmes,** Sr., Marshall
LB **Andrae Kirk,** Sr., Florida Atlantic
DB **D'Joun Smith,** Sr., Florida Atlantic
DB **Bryce Callahan,** Sr., Rice
DB **Triston Wade,** Sr., UTSA
DB **Corey Tindal,** So., Marshall

Specialists

K **Kyle Fischer,** So., Louisiana Tech
P **Hunter Mullins,** Sr., UAB

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

It's the senior star's award to lose. The Herd have a schedule set up for success. Cato is an NFL-caliber talent who has already enjoyed great success in this league.

Kenneth Dixon

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The junior will be the top returning tackler in the league and has great instincts for the football. He also collected three sacks and 11.5 tackles for loss last year.

ASCENDING

UTSA

It hasn't taken Larry Coker long to build this start-up program into a good team. While they may not win the West this season, the Roadrunners will be near or at the top for a long time.

DESCENDING

NORTH TEXAS

It has been a decade since North Texas enjoyed consecutive winning seasons. The Mean Green will also have to find a new quarterback to replace Heart of Dallas Bowl MVP Derek Thompson.

2 **Fresh meat: How will newcomers Old Dominion and Western Kentucky fare in their first seasons in the league?**

3 **Raising the bar: How will record-setting Old Dominion quarterback Taylor Heinicke fare against full-time FBS competition?**

RATING CONFERENCE USA

FASTEST RECEIVER
Jamarcus Nelson, WR, UAB
For his career, Nelson averages 19.9 yards per catch.

BEST HANDS
Tommy Shuler, WR, Marshall
The 5-7 Shuler caught 106 passes last year with 10 touchdowns.

BEST PASSING QB
Rakeem Cato, Marshall
Cato threw 39 touchdowns to nine interceptions last season. 'Nuff said.

BEST RUNNING QB
Jaquez Johnson, FAU
The juco transfer was the league's Newcomer of the Year last season, rushing for 767 yards and 10 TDs.

MOST ELUSIVE RB
Steward Butler, Marshall
Butler had six carries for 40 yards or more in 2013.

BEST INSTINCTS
Kenneth Dixon, RB, Louisiana Tech
While his rushing TDs dropped to only four on the season, he still averaged 6.1 yards per carry.

BEST ATHLETE
Jamarcus Nelson, WR/RS, UAB
Last season, Nelson averaged a league-high 20.1 yards per catch and scored 10 touchdowns with a 97-yard kickoff return and a 63-yard runback of a punt.

PLAYER MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (OFF THE FIELD)
Corey Acosta, PK, Southern Miss
Acosta is a Biological Sciences major and owns a 3.79 GPA.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Cody Clark, PK, Middle Tennessee
As a freshman, Clark converted 12 of 16 field goals and made all 46 of his extra points.

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Christian Covington, DT, Rice
The athletic 6-3, 295-pounder was an All-CUSA selection last year and his father, Grover, is a Canadian Football League Hall of Famer.

TOP IMPACT FROSH
Kendall Gant, DB, Marshall
Gant originally committed to Georgia but changed his mind. He was ranked as high as a four-star recruit by some scouting services.

HARDEST HITTER
T.T. Barber, LB, Middle Tennessee
Barber averaged 9.2 tackles per game and had 11.5 tackles for loss last season.

BEST PASS RUSHER
Gary Thompson, DL, Marshall
Thompson could blossom into a big-time threat up front this season. He had 3.5 sacks last year as a freshman.

BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER
Larry Coker, head coach, UTSA
In a very short amount of time, Coker has built the Roadrunners into a viable contender for the West Division.

BEST INTERVIEW
Larry Coker, head coach, UTSA
The longtime Division 1 coach usually has something interesting to say and has tutored some the best players in college football.

BEST COACH AS STRATEGIST
Rick Stockstill, Middle Tennessee
Stockstill made a smooth transition from the Sun Belt to C-USA last year, going 8-5 overall and 6-2 in the league, good for a second-place tie in East.

BEST VENUE
Joan C. Edwards Stadium, Marshall
The Herd's home remains one of the league's top facilities and is an intimidating place for opponents.

MULLENS: GEORGE CLARK / AP; CATO: GAIL BURTON / AP; DIXON: TONY GUTIERREZ / AP

MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

C-USA EAST

1

Evan McKelvey (31)

It has been a while, but Marshall is back on top of this league. Last season, the Thundering Herd reached the Conference USA Championship Game and won the Military Bowl, 31-20, over Maryland to finish with their first season of double-digit victories since 2002. The program hasn't enjoyed that kind of success since Byron Leftwich was playing quarterback in Huntington, W.Va.

Coach Doc Holliday had only one winning season in his first three years with the Herd. His breakthrough campaign could have been even better–Marshall lost in triple overtime at Ohio 34-31, at Virginia Tech 29-21 and at Middle Tennessee 51-49.

Expectations will be high this fall. Marshall has 12 returning starters, including quarterback Rakeem Cato, the league's reigning Offensive Player of the Year.

Cato has clearly been the best player in C-USA over the past two seasons, winning the 2012 league MVP and leading the seventh-highest scoring offense in the nation last season (42.1 ppg). He was third in Division 1 in TD passes (39) behind Fresno State's Derek Carr (50) and Florida State's Jameis Winston (40). He threw only nine interceptions. If there's one criticism of Cato, it's that he completed only 59.7 percent of his passes as a junior after having a completion rate of 69.5 in 2012.

Cato's overall numbers could improve, however, with the development of a quality target on the outside. Davonte Allen and Angelo Jean-Louis will each get a chance to be that guy. Top pass catcher Tommy Shuler (106 catches, 1,165 yards, 10 TDs) returns, but at 5-7 is more of a slot receiver. He is, however, one of only eight players in major college football history with two 100-catch seasons.

With seven returning starters, the defense should improve over last season, when it allowed 22.9 points per game (fourth fewest in C-USA). Marshall was also 17th in the nation in tackles for loss per game (7.3).

One rising star is cornerback Corey Tindal, the league's 2013 Freshman of the Year. He was fifth on the team in tackles (61), broke up six passes and recovered a pair of fumbles. Senior linebacker Jermaine Holmes (84 tackles, 2 sacks) also returns.

BOTTOM LINE

Could Marshall be perfect in 2014? It's certainly possible since it doesn't face a difficult nonconference game on the schedule. The Herd will probably be favored in every contest.

Difference-Maker

Evan McKelvey, LB

McKelvey started just half the games for Marshall in 2013 but somehow managed to lead the team in tackles with 97. While his 205-pound frame is small for a linebacker, his agility and speed allow him to hit holes and make stops. So the obvious thought coming into 2014? Imagine what he's going to do with more opportunities.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ MIAMI (OH)	52-14
S.6	Rhode Island	
S.13	Ohio	31-34
S.20	@ AKRON	
O.4	@ OLD DOMINION	
O.11	Middle Tennessee State	49-51
O.18	@ FLORIDA INTL.	48-10
O.25	Florida Atlantic	24-23
N.8	@ SOUTHERN MISS	61-13
N.15	Rice	24-41
N.22	@ UAB	56-14
N.28	Western Kentucky	

COACH

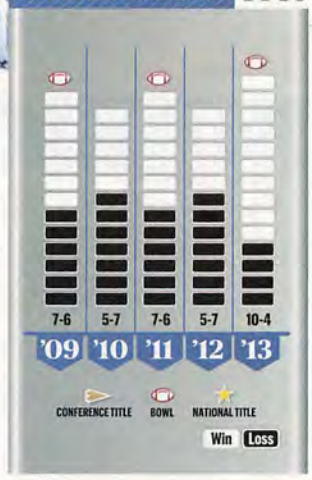
Doc Holliday
Fourth year (27-24)
Career record: 27-24

Offensive coordinator: Bill Legg (fifth year)
Defensive coordinator: Chuck Heater (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 10-4
(Beat Maryland in the Military Bowl, 31-20)
Stadium: Joan C. Edwards Stadium (38,016)
Tickets: 800-THE-HERD
Site: Huntington, W.Va.
Website: herdzone.com
Twitter: @HerdZone

5-YEAR RECORD 34-30



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Rakeem Cato (6-0, 181, Sr.)
RB	Steward Butler (5-9, 182, Jr.)
LT	Sebastian Johansson (6-4, 285, Jr.)
LG	Blake Brooks (6-1, 317, Sr.)
C	Chris Jasperse (6-4, 287, Sr.)
RG	Michael Selby (6-2, 277, So.)
RT	Clint Van Horn (6-4, 302, Jr.)
TE	Eric Frohnapfel (6-6, 229, Sr.)
WR	Davonte Allen (6-2, 200, Jr.)
WR	Tommy Shuler (5-7, 188, Sr.)
WR	Craig Wilkins (6-0, 180, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Ra'Shawde Myers (6-4, 246, Sr.)
DT	Jarquez Samuel (6-4, 273, Jr.)
DT	James Rouse (6-5, 268, Sr.)
DE	Gary Thompson (6-1, 241, So.)
LB	Jermaine Holmes (5-11, 246, Sr.)
LB	D.J. Hunter (6-0, 202, Jr.)
LB	Evan McKelvey (6-1, 205, Jr.)
CB	Darryl Roberts (5-11, 177, Sr.)
CB	Corey Tindal (5-9, 179, So.)
S	Tiquan Lang (5-9, 178, So.)
S	A.J. Leggett (5-11, 190, So.)

Specialists

K	Justin Haig (5-8, 174, Sr.)
P	Tyler Williams (6-0, 194, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

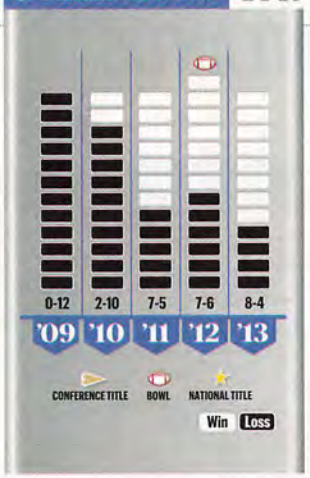
1 ▸ **Kendall Gant,** S ★★★★
2 ▸ **A.J. Addison,** OT ★★★
3 ▸ **Nathaniel Devers,** OG ★★★

This class ranked No. 1 in Conference USA. The 6-7, 290-pound Addison is already enrolled and has excellent upside. If he can develop quickly, he can be a multiyear starter for the Thundering Herd. Gant was committed to Georgia out of Lakeland, Fla., for most of the recruiting cycle before defecting. He's big and physical. Quarterback Cole Garvin (Tyrone, Ga./Sandy Creek) enjoyed a prolific high school career at one of the Atlanta area's top talent-producing programs (it's Calvin Johnson's alma mater). Devers (Massilon, Ohio) is one of the nastiest interior O-line prospects you will find.

MCKELVEY: MARK GOLDMAN / ICON SMI

WESTERN KENTUCKY HILLTOPPERS

5-YEAR RECORD 24-37



Leon Allen

2 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
C-USA EAST

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Brandon Doughty (6-3, 210, Sr.).
RB	Leon Allen (6-0, 235, Jr.)
LT	Forrest Lamp (6-4, 296, So.)
LG	Derrick Stark (6-2, 295, Sr.)
C	Max Halpin (6-3, 295, So.)
RG	Cam Clemmons (6-6, 305, Jr.)
RT	Darrell Williams (6-6, 310, So.)
TE	Mitchell Henry (6-4, 245, Sr.)
WR	Willie McNeal (5-10, 180, Sr.)
WR	Joel German (6-0, 185, Sr.)
WR	Taywan Taylor (6-1, 190, So.)

Defense

DE	Gavin Rocker (6-2, 230, Jr.)
DT	Devante Terrell (6-0, 318, So.)
DT	Jamichael Payne (6-1, 332, Sr.)
DE	TJ Smith (6-2, 240, Jr.)
LB	Terran Williams (6-2, 222, Sr.)
LB	Daqual Randall (6-0, 245, Jr.)
LB	Devante Duclos (6-1, 220, So.)
CB	Cam Thomas (6-1, 190, Sr.)
CB	Prince Charles Iworah (5-11, 193, Jr.)
S	Rico Brown (5-11, 185, Sr.)
S	Ricardo Singh (5-11, 190, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Garrett Schwettman (5-11, 160, Sr.)
P	Joseph Occhipinti (6-3, 190, So.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Dejon Brown,** LB ★★★
2. **Nacarius Fant,** WR ★★★
3. **Jared Dangerfield,** WR ★★★

Despite predecessor Bobby Petrino leaving after one season to go back to Louisville, new WKU coach Jeff Brohm and staff held together the No. 6 class in C-USA for the 2014 cycle, one that features several players from the junior-college ranks who can step in immediately. Brown, a 6-3, 215-pound juco from Mt. San Jacinto (Calif.) College is an instant-impact player on defense, as is City College of San Francisco linebacker Nick Holt. Fant can be electric in the open field and is a hometown kid from Bowling Green High. Dangerfield is a 6-3 juco who could help right away at wideout.

Plenty of changes are in store in Bowling Green for 2014, beginning with a new conference and a new coach. Western moves into its new C-USA digs after spending the last five seasons in the Sun Belt. The Hilltoppers have only been a full-fledged FBS member since 2009. Last year, they set a record for victories as an FBS school, but that was with Bobby Petrino in charge of the program. Petrino left for the Louisville job in the offseason.

Jeff Brohm will get his first opportunity as a head coach after serving as Petrino's offensive coordinator. Brohm will be the program's third leader in as many seasons, but since he was promoted from within, the Hilltoppers hope the transition will be smooth. The offense will stay the same and defensive coordinator Nick Holt also returns.

The offense could be improved despite the loss of running back Antonio Andrews, the nation's all-purpose yardage leader (218.3 per game) in 2013. A lot of pressure will be placed on quarterback Brandon Doughty. At times, he has looked good, such as in his 255-yard, three-TD, no-interception performance in the season-ending 34-31 victory over Arkansas State last year. At times, he has looked terrible, as he showed by throwing five interceptions in a big loss at Tennessee last September, including two picks for touchdowns. Turnovers were a huge problem overall for the Hilltoppers in 2013, as their total of 31 was seventh most in the nation.

Doughty's inconsistency wasn't all his fault. Western was young and not particularly explosive at wide receiver. Willie McNeal (46 catches for 599 yards, 5 TDs) returns as a dependable target. Replacing Andrews won't be easy but the team has high hopes for junior tailback Leon Allen (357 rushing yards, 5 TDs, 22 catches for 202 yards).

The biggest question for Brohm is on defense, where only four starters return. The Hilltoppers need to replace linebackers Andrew Jackson and Xavius Boyd (2013 Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year), plus their two best tackles. Former backups Terran Williams and Daqual Randall will try to fill the linebacker void.

Difference-maker

Leon Allen, RB

Last year former *SN* All-American Antonio Andrews rushed for more than 1,700 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior. But backing him up was the 6-0, 235-pound Allen, who pounded already-reeling defenses for five rushing touchdowns on just 72 attempts, giving him a TD percentage of 6.9. For comparison, Andrews' scoring clip was 5.9.

BOTTOM LINE

Western should be able to compete for a bowl bid in its Conference USA debut season.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.29	Bowling Green	
S.6	@ ILLINOIS	
S.13	@ MIDDLE TENN. STATE	
S.27	@ NAVY	19-7
O.4	UAB	
O.18	@ FLORIDA ATLANTIC	
O.25	Old Dominion	
N.1	@ LOUISIANA TECH	
N.8	UTEP	
N.15	Army	21-17
N.22	Texas-San Antonio	
N.28	@ MARSHALL	

COACH

Jeff Brohm
First year

Offensive coordinator: Tyson Helton (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Nick Holt (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-4
Stadium: Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium (22,113)
Tickets: 1-800-5-BIG-RED
Site: Bowling Green, Ky.
Website: wkusports.com
Twitter: @WKU_Football

ALLEN: G.M. ANDREWS/AP

3 MIDDLE TENNESSEE BLUE RAIDERS

Middle Tennessee enjoyed a successful transition from the Sun Belt into C-USA last year. The Blue Raiders finished tied for second in the East with East Carolina and reached the postseason, losing to Navy 24-6 in the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. (In 2012, the team was left out of a bowl game in its final season in the Sun Belt).

Middle has much to replace on offense with only five starters back. Finding a new quarterback to take over for the departed Logan Kilgore is Job No. 1 for coach Rick Stockstill. Sophomore Austin Grammer is the most experienced signal-caller after playing 10 games last season. Freshmen AJ Erdely and Brent Stockstill will also take their shots. Erdely redshirted last season but dressed for every game. Stockstill, the coach's son, was a three-star recruit who originally signed with Cincinnati.

Whoever starts at quarterback figures to feed the ball to tailback Jordan Parker. After rushing for a school freshman record of 851 yards in 2012, injuries slowed him down last year. Parker still led the team in rushing with 745 yards, but played just 21 snaps over the final five games. When healthy, the junior is a playmaker–37 of his carries went for either first downs or touchdowns in 2013.

Defensively, Middle could be much improved with eight returning starters. Last season, it was a middle-of-the-pack unit in terms of yards but it did force turnovers, tying for fifth in the nation with 33 takeaways. The Blue Raiders have two of the league's top tacklers returning in first-team all-conference linebacker T.T. Barber (9.2 stops per game) and safety Kevin Byard (8.2).

Up front, MTSU could be particularly good with three returning starters in ends Alexandro Antoine and Jiajuan Fennell and tackle Patrick McNeil. Antoine, who had 30 tackles last season, has added weight and strength.

BOTTOM LINE: The defense and Parker should be enough to get Middle into the postseason.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Savannah State	
S.6	@ MINNESOTA	
S.13	Western Kentucky	
S.20	@ MEMPHIS	17-15
S.27	@ OLD DOMINION	
O.4	Southern Miss	42-21
O.11	@ MARSHALL	51-49
O.18	UAB	24-21
N.1	BYU	10-37
N.15	@ FLORIDA INTL.	48-0
N.22	Florida Atlantic	42-35
N.29	@ UTEP	48-17

COACH

Rick Stockstill
Ninth year (51-49)
Career record: 51-49

Offensive coordinator: Buster Faulkner (third year)
Defensive coordinators: Steve Ellis (fourth year) Tyrone Nix (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Lost to Navy in the Armed Forces Bowl, 24-6)
Stadium: Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium (30,788)
Tickets: 888-YES-MTSU
Site: Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Website: goblueraiders.com
Twitter: @MTAthletics

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Austin Grammer (6-2, 201, So.)
RB	Jordan Parker (6-1, 220, Jr.)
LT	Darius Johnson (6-3, 287, Jr.)
LG	Adam Stickel (6-5, 294, So.)
C	Josh Chester (6-3, 298, So.)
RG	Daniel Stephens (6-2, 299, So.)
RT	Isaiah Anderson (6-4, 268, Sr.)
TE	Lucas Hamilton (6-5, 260, Fr.)
WR	Christian Collis (6-0, 212, Jr.)
WR	Marcus Henry (6-0, 190, Sr.)
WR	Terry Pettis (6-5, 230, So.)

Defense

LE	Jiajuan Fennell (6-3, 260, Sr.)
LT	Patrick McNeil (6-1, 310, Sr.)
RT	Raynard Felton (6-4, 281, So.)
RE	Alexandro Antoine (6-1, 252, Jr.)
LB	James Roberson (6-0, 214, Jr.)
LB	Christian Henry (6-0, 221, Sr.)
LB	T.T. Barber (6-1, 221, Jr.)
CB	Khari Burke (5-8, 174, Sr.)
CB	Jared Singletary (5-8, 174, Jr.)
SS	Kevin Byard (5-11, 221, Jr.)
FS	Xavier Walker (6-4, 202, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Cody Clark (6-1, 181, So.)
P	Zachary Lopez (5-11, 204, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

4 FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS

Charlie Partridge is now in charge in Boca Raton after having been assistant head coach at Arkansas last year under Bret Bielema, whose staff he also served on for many years at Wisconsin. Partridge, a Florida native, coached the defensive linemen with the Razorbacks.

Partridge replaces Carl Pelini, who resigned in the middle of last season amid allegations of illegal drug use. Florida Atlantic finished the season bowl-eligible under interim coach Brian Wright (still on staff as associate head coach), but did not receive a postseason invitation. Interestingly, FAU opens the season Aug. 30 at Nebraska, where the head coach is Carl's brother, Bo Pelini.

Partridge has 12 returning starters–six on offense and six on defense. The Owls have building blocks on defense with lineman Brandin Bryant, linebacker Andrae Kirk and cornerback D'Joun Smith. Last season, the Owls were 11th in the nation in total yards allowed (326.4 per game) and 26th in points allowed (22.2).

Smith should contend for C-USA Defensive Player of the Year after being the Owls' MVP last season. He was third in the nation in interceptions (7) and second in passes defended (20). In support of Smith, Kirk was 12th in C-USA with 84 tackles, while Bryant had five sacks. The team will have to replace the departed Cory Henry, the program's all-time leader in sacks who finished his career with seven last season.

The Owls will have some offensive continuity with Wright back as coordinator. Junior quarterback Jaquez Johnson also returns after coming to the school from the juco ranks. He was the C-USA Newcomer of the Year in 2013, rushing for 772 yards and passing for 1,876 more. Johnson was fourth in the league in total offense (239.8 yards per game) and set an FAU rookie record for quarterbacks with 10 rushing touchdowns.

BOTTOM LINE: Johnson's presence and a strong defense will make Partridge's first season in Boca Raton a winning one.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ NEBRASKA	
S.6	@ ALABAMA	
S.13	Tulsa	
S.20	@ WYOMING	
S.27	Texas-San Antonio	
O.2	@ FLORIDA INTL.	21-6
O.18	Western Kentucky	
O.25	@ MARSHALL	23-24
N.1	UAB	37-23
N.8	@ NORTH TEXAS	
N.22	@ MIDDLE TENN. STATE	35-42
N.29	Old Dominion	

COACH

Charlie Partridge
First year

Offensive coordinator: Brian Wright (third year)
Defensive coordinators: Jovan Dewitt (first year) and Roc Bellantoni (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 6-6
Stadium: FAU Stadium (29,419)
Tickets: 866-FAU-OWLS
Site: Boca Raton, Fla.
Website: fausports.com
Twitter: @FAUOwlAthletics

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Jaquez Johnson (6-1, 225, Jr.)
RB	Jay Warren (6-0, 195, So.)
LT	Dillon DeBoer (6-5, 245, So.)
LG	Isaac Edwards (6-3, 280, So.)
C	Braden Lyons (6-5, 295, Sr.)
RG	Mikingson Marsaille (6-6, 320, Jr.)
RT	Vinny Davino (6-5, 260, Jr.)
TE	Alex Deleon (6-4, 210, Sr.)
WR	Lucky Whitehead (5-10, 163, Sr.)
WR	William Dukes (6-4, 190, Sr.)
WR	Jenson Stoshak (6-1, 195, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Robinson Eugene, (6-5, 263, Jr.)
DT	Trevon Coley (6-2, 225, Jr.)
DT	Brandin Bryant (6-2, 260, Jr.)
DE	Trey Hendrickson (6-4, 222, So.)
LB	Freedom Whitfield (6-2, 200, Jr.)
LB	Andrae Kirk (6-2, 225, Sr.)
LB	Robert Relf (6-3, 220, So.)
CB	Cre'von LeBlanc (5-11, 175, Jr.)
CB	D'Joun Smith (5-11, 175, Sr.)
SS	Damian Parms (6-2, 195, Sr.)
FS	Christian Milstead (5-10, 170, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Landon Scheer (5-8, 180, Fr.)
P	Sean Kelly (5-10, 180, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

5 OLD DOMINION MONARCHS

Welcome to big-time football, Old Dominion. The Monarchs, a start-up program that only came into existence five years ago, have completed their transition from FCS to being a full-fledged FBS member. Now, after serving its time in the FCS, ODU will try to compete in its first year of C-USA competition.

Old Dominion played five games against FBS schools in 2013, losing all but one, a 50-38 victory at Idaho. Reality, however, came crashing in with an embarrassing season-ending 80-20 loss at North Carolina. The Monarchs' most encouraging performance was probably a 35-24 loss at Pittsburgh.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A.30	Hampton
S.6	@ N.C. STATE
S.13	Eastern Michigan
S.20	@ RICE
S.27	Middle Tennessee State
O.4	Marshall
O.11	@ UTEP
O.25	@ WESTERN KENTUCKY
N.1	@ VANDERBILT
N.8	Florida International
N.22	Louisiana Tech
N.29	@ FLORIDA ATLANTIC

Senior quarterback Taylor Heinicke should help the program get up to speed quickly. Heinicke won the Walter Payton Award (the FCS equivalent of the Heisman Trophy) as a sophomore. Last season, he passed for 4,022 yards and 33 touchdowns with just eight interceptions. Heinicke must prove he can do that against FBS competition. He enjoyed his best game at Idaho (533 yards, 4 TDs, 1 INT); he had his worst at Maryland (166, 0, 3).

The offense could continue to be explosive (42.3 ppg in 2013) with senior receivers Larry Pinkard (68 catches, 1,020 yards, 9 TDs) and Antonio Vaughan (60, 843, 9).

The real key for the Monarchs will be how much they can improve their porous defense. Against FBS competition, ODU allowed 50 points and 533 yards per game last season.

QUICK HITS

2013 RECORD: 8-4

Coach: Bobby Wilder (Sixth year, 46-14)
Career record: 46-14
Offensive coordinator: Brian Scott (sixth year)
Defensive coordinator: Rich Nagy (second year)

Stadium: Foreman Field (20,118)
Tickets: 757-683-4444
Site: Norfolk, Va.
Website: odusports.com
Twitter: @ODUFootball

6 UAB BLAZERS

After a successful one-year stint at FCS Jacksonville State, Bill Clark is the new head coach at UAB. He guided the Gamecocks to an 11-4 record and a playoff victory last year in his only season as a college head coach. Prior to his time at JSU, he was defensive coordinator at South Alabama.

The Blazers hope the Alabama native will be able to energize a program that has fallen on hard times. The previous coach, Garrick McGee, left after two seasons to become Bobby Petrino's offensive coordinator at Louisville. In two seasons, UAB was 5-19 under McGee.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A.30	Troy
S.6	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE
S.13	Alabama A&M
S.27	Florida International
O.4	@ WESTERN KENTUCKY
O.11	North Texas
O.18	@ MIDDLE TENN. STATE
O.25	@ ARKANSAS
N.1	@ FLORIDA ATLANTIC
N.8	Louisiana Tech
N.22	Marshall
N.29	@ SOUTHERN MISS

One key for this team might be the play of a veteran receiving corps led by senior Jamarcus Nelson (42 catches, 846 yards, 8 TDs). Also back as pass catchers are sophomore Jamari Staples (31, 458, 4) and junior Darius Powell (13, 174, 2). But who will be throwing to those receivers? The UAB offense has no experienced quarterbacks returning. The Blazers have a hodgepodge of candidates competing in a wide-open race: redshirt freshman Jeremiah Briscoe, senior Myles McKee, little-used junior backup Mike Miller, junior-college transfer Cody Clements and true freshman Taz Wilson. The top returning rusher is Jordan Howard, who gained 881 yards last season, good for second among all FBS freshmen.

Defensively, there's nowhere to go but up: Last year, UAB finished 116th in total defense (497.8 ypg) and fifth worst in scoring defense (43.8 ppg).

QUICK HITS

2013 RECORD: 2-10

Coach: Bill Clark (First year)
Career record: 11-4
Offensive coordinator: Bryant Vincent (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Duwan Walker (first year)

Stadium: Legion Field (71,594)
Tickets: 205-975-UAB1
Site: Birmingham, Ala.
Website: uabsports.com
Twitter: @UABathletics

7 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL GOLDEN PANTHERS

Coach Ron Turner's first year at FIU–and his team's debut season in a new league–was a complete implosion. The Panthers' lone victory came against Southern Miss (1-11). Just four years ago the program was co-champion of the Sun Belt with Troy and won the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl.

The big problem last year was a lack of (returning) talent. This fall, FIU will have 19 starters back. Unfortunately, they're the same players who were responsible for the most feeble offense in the FBS last season. The Panthers finished tied for last in points scored (117), last in total offense (219 yards per game) and eighth worst in passing offense (142.8 yards per game). That had to be tough for Turner, a former NFL offensive coordinator.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A.30	Bethune-Cookman
S.6	Wagner
S.13	Pittsburgh
S.20	Louisville
S.27	@ UAB
O.2	Florida Atlantic
O.11	@ TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO
O.18	Marshall
N.1	Rice
N.8	@ OLD DOMINION
N.15	Middle Tennessee State
N.22	@ NORTH TEXAS

The defense wasn't much better–allowing 37 points per game and ranking 110th out of 125 FBS schools.

Turner hopes a second year in his system will lead to a significant improvement. Junior quarterback E.J. Hilliard is back, but he had three touchdown passes compared with four interceptions last year and will be pushed by freshmen Alex McGough and Bud Martin, who enrolled early to compete for the job.

The offensive line returns intact, though, and that could be a strength for Turner. The Panthers also have a promising H-back/tight end in Jonnu Smith, who led the team in catches (39) last year.

QUICK HITS

2013 RECORD: 1-11

Coach: Ron Turner (Second year, 1-11)
Career record: 43-72
Offensive coordinator: Steve Shankweiler (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Josh Conklin (second year)

Stadium: FIU Stadium (20,000)
Tickets: 305-FIU-GAME
Site: Miami
Website: fiusports.com
Twitter: @FIUFootball

RICE OWLS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

C-USA WEST

1

Jordan Taylor

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ NOTRE DAME	
S.13	@ TEXAS A&M	31-52
S.20	Old Dominion	
S.27	@ SOUTHERN MISS	
O.4	Hawaii	
O.11	@ ARMY	
O.25	North Texas	16-28
N.1	@ FLORIDA INTL.	
N.8	Texas-San Antonio	27-21
N.15	@ MARSHALL	41-24
N.21	UTEP	45-7
N.29	@ LOUISIANA TECH	52-14

COACH

David Bailiff
Seventh year (40-48)
Career record: 61-63

Offensive coordinators:
Larry Edmondson (first year)
Billy Lynch (first year)
Defensive coordinator:
Chris Thurmond (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 10-4
(Lost to Mississippi State in the Liberty Bowl, 44-7)
Stadium: Rice Stadium (47,000)
Tickets: 713-522-OWLS
Site: Houston
Website: riceowls.com
Twitter: @RiceFootball1

Rice will try to keep the momentum going after winning last year's C-USA championship–its first outright title in a conference since 1957. The Owls' 44-7 loss to Mississippi State in the Liberty Bowl prevented them from winning postseason games in consecutive years for the first time.

Rice won 10 games in 2008 but slid back to a 2-10 mark the following season. Coach David Bailiff, who received a five-year contract extension in the offseason, has 12 returning starters. The Owls will attempt to build a West Division champion on the fly without a clear-cut, established quarterback.

After being Taylor McHargue's backup the past two seasons, Driphus Jackson is the likely heir apparent at quarterback to lead the offense. Jackson's best moment last year was when he came off the bench to help lead Rice to 10 fourth-quarter points in a 23-14 victory over Kansas. The former U.S. Army High School All-American played in 10 games last year but made more of an impact running (27 carries, 156 yards) than throwing (5-for-16 for 50 yards with an INT and no TDs).

Veteran wide receivers Jordan Taylor and Dennis Parks should help Jackson's development. Taylor is C-USA's fourth-best returning receiver in terms of yards with 848 on 55 catches (8 TDs). Parks had 29 receptions for 508 yards and three scores.

Rice must find someone to fill in for graduated running back Charles Ross, who was second in the league in rushing (1,280 yards) with a conference-best 15 rushing TDs. Heir apparent Darik Dillard rushed for 396 yards as a freshman. He gained 52 yards and a TD in the conference title game.

For the most part, Rice was better defensively down the stretch in 2013. If you take out the bowl game, the Owls allowed 20 points per game over the six games prior to the Mississippi State loss. And one of those games went into overtime.

Defensive tackle Christian Covington was a first-team all-conference selection. He had 9.5 tackles for a loss and four sacks. Fellow tackle Stuart Mouchantaf was one of the team's top tacklers (33) before sustaining a season-ending injury that caused him to miss the final six games. Cornerback Bryce Callahan is one of three returning starters in the secondary.

BOTTOM LINE

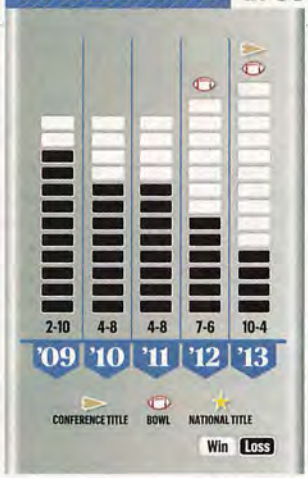
If the revamped backfield of Jackson and Dillard is productive, Rice will be in position to win the West again. If the offense falters, that could open the door for another contender.

Difference-maker

Jordan Taylor, WR

At 6-5 and 210 pounds, Taylor has a body suitable for a big-play, throw-it-up-and-catch-it receiver. He led the Owls in receptions by a large margin with 55 and scored on a 75-yard catch in Rice's 41-24 win over Marshall in the Conference USA Championship Game–the longest touchdown reception in the game's history.

5-YEAR RECORD 27-36



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Driphus Jackson (6-0, 205, Jr.)
RB	Darik Dillard (5-10, 195, So.)
LT	Ian Gray (6-8, 345, Sr.)
LG	Nico Carlson (6-3, 285, Sr.)
C	Spencer Stanley (6-2, 275, So.)
RG	Drew Carroll (6-4, 290, Sr.)
RT	Caleb Williams (6-3, 285, Jr.)
TE	Connor Cella (6-3, 240, So.)
WR	Dennis Parks (6-2, 190, Jr.)
WR	Mario Hull (6-1, 210, Sr.)
WR	Jordan Taylor (6-5, 210, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Zach Patt (6-2, 240, Sr.)
DT	Stuart Mouchantaf (6-4, 290, Sr.)
DT	Christian Covington (6-3, 295, Jr.)
DE	Dylan Klare (6-2, 270, Sr.)
LB	Alex Lyons (6-0, 220, So.)
LB	James Radcliffe (6-1, 220, Sr.)
DB	Jaylon Finner (5-10, 195, Sr.)
CB	Bryce Callahan (5-10, 180, Sr.)
CB	Anthony Canady (5-9, 170, So.)
S	Malcolm Hill (5-11, 190, Sr.)
S	Julius White (5-10, 195, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Taylor Knopf (6-0, 170, Fr.)
P	James Farrimond (6-0, 210, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

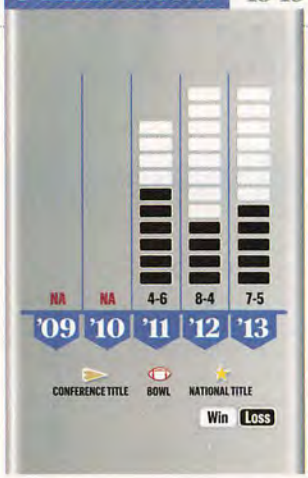
1 Samuel Stewart, RB ★★★
2 Aston Walter, ATH ★★★
3 Jeremy Jones, QB ★★★

The Owls signed 19 prospects in the 2014 class–18 from Texas and one from North Pole, Alaska (wideout Lance Wright). Stewart is an elusive playmaker in the open field and could contribute early in the return game. Jones is a 6-5, 190-pounder who oozes potential. He's the type of prospect who could become elite in time, as long as he develops and grasps the game at the college level. Versatile players such as Stewart, Austin Walter (Crosby, Texas), Destri White (Mesquite, Texas/Horn) and J.T. Ibe (Mansfield, Texas) are a trademark of this class, which features plenty of athleticism and ranked No. 6 in Conference USA.

TAYLOR: PAT SULLIVAN / AP

TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO ROADRUNNERS

3-YEAR RECORD 19-15



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Tucker Carter (6-3, 225, Sr.)
TB David Glasco (5-10, 200, Sr.)
FB Nate Shaw (5-11, 235, Sr.)
LT Josh Walker (6- 3, 295, Sr.)
LG Scott Inskeep (6-4, 300, Sr.)
C Nate Leonard (6-0, 280, Sr.)
RG William Cavanaugh (6-1, 300, Jr.)
RT Cody Harris (6-5, 300, Sr.)
TE Cole Hubble (6-2, 235, Sr.)
WR Kam Jones (5-11, 190, Sr.)
WR Brandon Freeman (5-10, 175, Sr.)

Defense

DE Cody Rogers (6-0, 250, Sr.)
DT Richard Burge (6-3, 290, Sr.)
DT Ashaad Mabry (6-3, 315, Sr.)
DE Robert Singletary (6-2, 250, Sr.)
LB Drew Douglas (6-1, 225, Jr.)
LB Blake Terry (5-11, 220, Sr.)
CB Crosby Adams III (5-9, 180, Sr.)
CB Bennett Okotcha (6-0, 195, Jr.)
S Triston Wade (5-11, 165, Sr.)
S Brian King (6-1, 195, Sr.)
S Nic Johnston (6-2, 210, Sr.)

Specialists

K Sean Ianno (6-3, 215, Sr.)
P Kristian Stern (5-11, 185, Sr.)

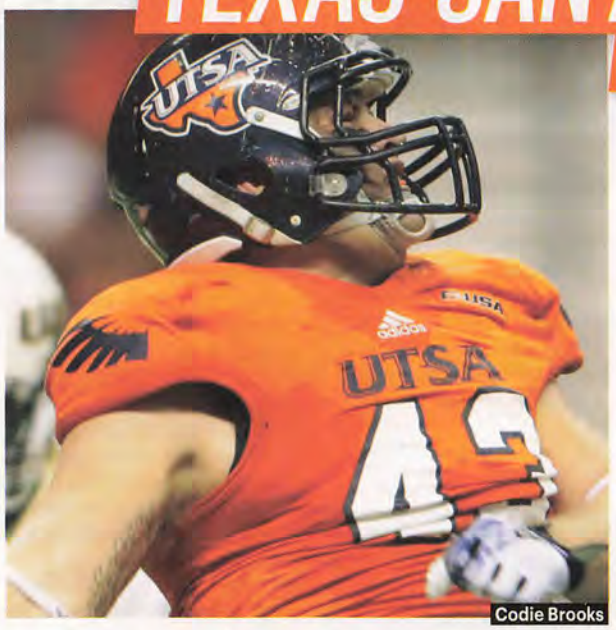
Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **David Anzaldua,** OT ★★★
2. **Kerry Thomas,** WR ★★★
3. **Blake Bogenschutz,** QB ★★

This Roadrunners' class featured only 14 signees, as numbers were tight for coach Larry Coker. Anzaldua is the most highly regarded. The 6-6, 320-pounder was one of the top 150 offensive tackles nationally for 2014. Standing only 5-11, Bogenschutz is not the tallest signal-caller out there, but he was effective at the high school level. If he can fill out his frame over time, keep an eye on local defensive end Marcus Davenport of San Antonio Stevens. He's "all arms" right now at 6-5 and 190 pounds, but added strength and bulk could make him elite.



Codie Brooks

For the first time, UTSA will be eligible to play in a bowl game. Coach Larry Coker has ushered this program from its inaugural 2011 season and the Roadrunners have been competitive in a short span of time. Last year, they almost won the West title in their first year in C-USA after being picked to finish last in the division.

Texas-San Antonio could be quite good this year with nine returning starters on offense and 10 on defense. The Roadrunners will need to find a quarterback to replace graduated three-year starter Eric Soza, who was third in the league in 2013 in passing yards per game (226.6). Senior Tucker Carter and redshirt freshman Austin Robinson will compete for the job. Carter appeared in five games, completing 69.7 percent of his throws for 190 yards with a TD and an interception. Both Carter (6-3, 225 pounds) and Robinson (6-3, 220) have good size, but Carter's experience will likely put him over the top.

Whoever starts at quarterback will benefit from a veteran offensive line that returns all five starters, led by all-conference guard Scott Inskeep. Last season, the Roadrunners averaged 4.9 yards per rush (second best in the league) and gave up just 17 sacks (fourth fewest in C-USA).

On defense, UTSA hopes to build on a unit that allowed only 18.8 points per conference game, third best in C-USA. The strength of the defense could be in the secondary, particularly cornerbacks Crosby Adams III and Bennett Okotcha. Adams had two fumble recoveries and an interception. Okotcha, an Oklahoma transfer, led the team in passes broken up (10). The team's top tackler (with 94) is returning safety Triston Wade.

Difference-maker

Codie Brooks, DE

The 6-1, 250-pounder was a walk-on in 2013. Somehow, even to the surprise of UTSA coach and two-time national Coach of the Year Larry Coker, he flew under the Roadrunners' radar. At season's end, Brooks had recorded five tackles for loss, five sacks and four pass deflections in just five starts. He's "instant defense" off the bench for UTSA.

BOTTOM LINE

Thanks to a senior-laden roster, Coker's team should battle Rice for the West title. Last season, its losses came to league stalwarts Rice and Marshall.

2 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
C-USA WEST

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.29	@HOUSTON	28-59
S.4	Arizona	13-38
S.13	@OKLAHOMA STATE	35-56
S.27	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	
O.4	New Mexico	21-13
O.11	Florida International	
O.18	@LOUISIANA TECH	30-10
O.25	UTEP	32-13
N.8	@RICE	21-27
N.13	Southern Miss	
N.22	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	
N.29	North Texas	21-13

COACH

Larry Coker
Fourth year (19-15)
Career record: 79-30

Offensive coordinator: Kevin Brown (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Neal Neathery (fifth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 7-5
Stadium: Alamodome (65,000)
Tickets: 210-458-UTSA
Site: San Antonio
Website: goutsa.com
Twitter: @UTSAFTBL

BROOKS: ERIC GAY / AP

3 LOUISIANA TECH BULLDOGS

Following Sonny Dykes turned out to be a difficult task for Skip Holtz in his first season as head coach in Ruston. Louisiana Tech's offense was third-to-last in the league in points (19.2 per game) and the quarterbacks collectively passed for 10 touchdowns against 15 interceptions. The Bulldogs lost their final three games and totaled just 38 points during that stretch.

Holtz hopes to see improvement from quarterback Ryan Higgins. As a redshirt freshman, he threw 13 interceptions to five TDs in nine games. If he can't get it done, that could open the door for Scotty Young. The Texas Tech transfer played in seven games last year, passing for 733 yards with four scores and two interceptions. He completed only 52 percent of his throws, however.

Running back Kenneth Dixon was slowed by injuries to his knee and ankle in 2013. Still, he rushed for 917 rushing yards and averaged 6.1 yards per carry in 10 games. Dixon is the leading returning rusher in C-USA with a 91.7-yard average per game. Two important additions might help offset the losses at wide receiver. Paul Turner, an LSU transfer, joins the squad. The former standout prep quarterback played in nine games for the Tigers in 2012. The Bulldogs also add touted redshirt freshman Carlos Henderson.

Louisiana Tech will have a new defensive coordinator in Manny Diaz. He was formerly the DC under Mack Brown at Texas, where in 2011 the Longhorns had the best defense in the Big 12. He was made a scapegoat and fired at midseason last year after Texas surrendered a school-record 550 rushing yards in a loss to BYU.

The Bulldogs' pass defense was solid last year, allowing 12 touchdowns to 18 interceptions. The 18 picks tied for second in the league, and LaTech was fifth in pass-efficiency defense. Led by Adairius Barnes (49 tackles, 4 INTs) and Le'Vander Liggins, the top three cornerbacks return in the secondary.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ OKLAHOMA	
S.6	@ LOUISIANA	
S.11	@ NORTH TEXAS	13-28
S.20	Northwestern State	
S.27	@ AUBURN	
O.4	UTEP	38-35
O.18	Texas-San Antonio	10-30
O.25	@ SOUTHERN MISS	36-13
N.1	Western Kentucky	
N.8	@ UAB	
N.22	@ OLD DOMINION	
N.29	Rice	

COACH

Skip Holtz
Second year (4-8)
Career record: 92-79

Offensive coordinator: Tony Petersen (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Manny Diaz (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 4-8
Stadium: Joe Aillet Stadium (30,600)
Tickets: 318-257-3631
Site: Ruston, La.
Website: latechsports.com
Twitter: @LaTechFB

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Ryan Higgins (6-1, 208, So.)
RB Kenneth Dixon (5-10, 212, Jr.)
LT Darrell Brown (6-4, 300, So.)
LG Tre Carter (6-1, 308, Sr.)
C Joseph Brunson (6-4, 302, So.)
RG Richard Greenwalt (6-4, 302, Sr.)
RT Mitchell Bell (6-3, 354, Sr.)
WR Sterling Griffin (6-1, 189, Sr.)
WR Hunter Lee (5-10, 192, Sr.)
WR Eddie Johnson (6-3, 229, Sr.)
WR Paul Turner (5-11, 190, Jr.)

Defense

DE Vontarrius Dora (6-4, 253, Jr.)
DT Devon McKinney (6-0, 286, Sr.)
DT Vernon Butler (6-3, 309, Jr.)
DE Andre Taylor (6-4, 253, Sr.)
LB Mitch Villemez (6-1, 230, Jr.)
LB Tony Johnson (6-2, 254, Sr.)
LB Terrell Pinson (6-2, 210, Sr.)
CB Adairius Barnes (5-11, 186, Jr.)
CB Le'Vander Liggins (5-10, 191, Sr.)
S Lloyd Grogan (6-1, 211, So.)
S Xavier Woods (5-11, 188, So.)

Specialists

K Kyle Fischer (5-11, 211, So.)
P Logan McPherson (5-10, 177, So.)

Sporting News All-American

4 NORTH TEXAS MEAN GREEN

Dan McCarney was rewarded for a successful C-USA debut last season with a five-year contract extension. The Mean Green won nine games for the just sixth time in the program's history, capped off with a 36-14 victory over UNLV in the Heart of Dallas Bowl. It was third bowl victory ever for the school.

The challenge now will be keeping the program on this level. North Texas hasn't had back-to-back winning seasons since winning Sun Belt titles in 2003 and 2004. The Mean Green won nine games in McCarney's first two seasons.

The coach will be looking for a new starting quarterback. Junior Andrew McNulty will try to win the job over sophomore Josh Greer and redshirt freshman Dajon Williams. McNulty, who backed up bowl game MVP Derek Thompson, played in eight games last year but threw only six passes. Greer is a juco transfer who passed for 1,205 yards and eight TDs in six games. Williams was a dual-threat quarterback in high school.

North Texas should be good up front with a veteran offensive line that features four returning starters.

One key question about McCarney's team is whether the defense will be as stout as it was last season. North Texas allowed the fewest points in the league (17.8 per game) and fewest yards (326.4). Unfortunately for the Mean Green, they lost six of their starting front seven. The lone returning starter up front is linebacker Derek Akunne, who tied for second on the team with 90 tackles last season. He added 4.5 tackles for a loss and forced a fumble.

One important addition at linebacker will be Oregon transfer Anthony Wallace. The former four-star prep prospect could have an immediate impact.

The secondary returns three of four starters. Safety Lairamie Lee set a career high with 74 tackles in 2013 and was second on the team with three interceptions.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ TEXAS	
S.6	SMU	
S.11	Louisiana Tech	28-13
S.20	Nicholls State	
O.4	@ INDIANA	
O.11	@ UAB	
O.18	Southern Miss	55-14
O.25	@ RICE	28-16
N.8	Florida Atlantic	
N.15	@ UTEP	41-7
N.22	Florida International	
N.29	@ TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO	13-21

COACH

Dan McCarney
Fourth year (18-19)
Career record: 74-104

Offensive coordinator: Mike Canales (fifth year)
Defensive coordinator: John Skladany (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 9-4
(Beat UNLV in the Heart of Dallas Bowl, 36-14)
Stadium: Apogee Stadium (30,850)
Tickets: 800-868-2366
Site: Denton, Texas
Website: meangreensports.com
Twitter: @MeanGreenFB

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Andrew McNulty (6-1, 210, Jr.)
RB Antoinne Jimmerson (5-9, 222, Jr.)
LT Antonio Johnson (6-5, 294, Sr.)
LG Mason Y'Barbo (6-2, 307, Sr.)
C Kaydon Kirby (6-3, 313, So.)
RG Shawn McKinney (6-4, 365, Sr.)
RT Cyril Lemon (6-3, 304, Sr.)
TE Marcus Smith (6-4, 255, Jr.)
WR Carlos Harris (5-8, 172, Jr.)
WR Darius Terrell (6-3, 212, Sr.)
WR Darvin Kidsy (6-0, 174, So.)

Defense

DE Sid Moore (6-1, 252, Fr.)
DT Austin Orr (6-4, 272, Jr.)
DT Alexander Lincoln (6-2, 267, Sr.)
DE Daryl Mason (6-3, 253, Sr.)
LB Anthony Wallace (6-0, 235, Jr.)
LB Jamal Marshall (6-3, 210, Jr.)
LB Derek Akunne (6-0, 244, Sr.)
CB Kenny Buyers (5-11, 177, Jr.)
CB James Jones (5-11, 173, Sr.)
S Sheldon Wade (5-11, 181, Sr.)
S Lairamie Lee (5-10, 195, Sr.)

Specialists

K Zach Paul (5-9, 185, Jr.)
P Blake Macek (5-9, 186, So.)

Sporting News All-American

5 SOUTHERN MISS GOLDEN EAGLES

After three different football coaches in as many seasons, Southern Miss will enjoy some continuity. Todd Monken is back for his second year for a program that fired Ellis Johnson after one season, having already lost Larry Fedora to North Carolina in 2011 after four bowl campaigns.

Monken won only one more game than Johnson last year, going 1-11, but Southern Miss hopes patience will pay off with 16 returning starters and a slightly less-brutal opening schedule. This year, the Golden Eagles will open with games against Mississippi State (away), Alcorn State (home), Alabama (away) and Appalachian State (home). That's more manageable than last year's three straight road games at Nebraska, Arkansas and Boise State.

Monken, the former Oklahoma State offensive coordinator, has a quarterback to build around. Sophomore Nick Mullens played in nine games last year, starting the last six. He kept the Golden Eagles from a second straight winless campaign by leading them to a 62-27 victory over UAB in the season finale. Mullens threw for five touchdown passes and 370 yards against the Blazers.

Southern Miss will have a new offensive coordinator in Chip Lindsey, who was on the Auburn staff last year. He replaces Marcus Arroyo, who left to take an NFL position with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Lindsey was Mullens' high school coach.

Last season, USM allowed three sacks per game, which was among the worst rates in the nation. It also used 10 different starters on the offensive line. The Golden Eagles brought in a pair of junior-college transfers to boost the pass protection in Thomas Collins and Norman Price.

The defense returns standout noseguard Rakeem Nunez-Roches. The preseason All-Conference USA choice was hurt in the second game last season and never returned. Middle linebacker Alan Howze, who also missed time due to injury, is back healthy.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE	
S.6	Alcorn State	
S.13	@ ALABAMA	
S.20	Appalachian State	
S.27	Rice	
O.4	@ MIDDLE TENN. STATE	21-42
O.18	@ NORTH TEXAS	14-55
O.25	Louisiana Tech	13-36
N.1	@ UTEP	
N.8	Marshall	13-61
N.13	@ TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO	
N.29	UAB	62-27

COACH

Todd Monken
Second year (1-11)
Career record: 1-11

Offensive coordinator: Chip Lindsey (first year)
Defensive coordinator: David Duggan (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 1-11
Stadium: M.M. Roberts Stadium (36,000)
Tickets: 601-266-5418
Site: Hattiesburg, Miss.
Website: southernmiss.com
Twitter: @SouthernMissFB

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Nick Mullens (6-1, 188, So.)
RB	Jalen Richard (5-8, 205, Jr.)
LT	Rashod Hill (6-6, 285, Jr.)
LG	Taylor Peterson (6-4, 295, Sr.)
C	Devin Farrior (6-4, 304, Fr.)
RG	Fredrick Moore (6-5, 305, Sr.)
RT	Cameron Tom (6-4, 289, So.)
WR	James Cox (6-1, 193, So.)
WR	Tyre'oune Holmes (5-11, 170, So.)
WR	Markese Triplett (6-4, 244, Sr.)
WR	Marquise Ricard (6-2, 180, So.)

Defense

DE	Dylan Bradley (6-1, 265, So.)
DT	Adam Williams (6-2, 294, Sr.)
NG	Rakeem Nunez-Roches (6-2, 290, Jr.)
DL	Ja'Boree Poole (6-2, 240, So.)
WLB	Terrick Wright (6-2, 216, Jr.)
MLB	Alan Howze (6-3, 227, Sr.)
DB	DeBarriaus Miller (5-10, 183, Jr.)
CB	Ed Wilkins (5-10, 171, Jr.)
CB	Kalan Reed (5-11, 198, Jr.)
S	Jacorius Cotton (5-11, 195, Sr.)
S	Emmanuel Johnson (5-11, 182, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Corey Acosta (6-0, 195, Sr.)
P	Tyler Sarrazin (6-3, 190, So.)

Sporting News All-American

6 UTEP MINERS

Sean Kugler had a rough return to his alma mater as head coach last season. His first UTEP team's only conference victory was against lowly FIU, 33-10, and it was outscored 93-20 over the final two games. Much of the blame could be placed on a rushing defense that was 117th in the country (247.8 yards allowed per game). The Miners weren't very good at getting after the passer, either, with just 13 sacks (118th nationally).

The Miners have five starters on defense returning, but that might not be a good thing considering how poorly the unit performed. Among the newcomers are seven defensive linemen. Junior-college tackle Alex Villarreal will likely be expected to contribute immediately. The former Oklahoma State signee had 80 tackles last year at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M. The best of the returnees up front might be Roy Robertson-Harris (3.5 sacks). The 6-7, 255-pound end is the cousin of Tampa Bay Buccaneers offensive lineman Carl Nicks.

Quarterback and Texas A&M transfer Jameill Showers played only seven games in 2013 due to a shoulder injury. When he was healthy, he was productive, passing for 1,263 yards, 11 TDs and four interceptions. Before he got hurt in the second quarter of a 45-7 loss at Rice, the Miners averaged 31.1 points a game. He also rushed for 195 yards and four scores. The senior figures to regain his starting job, although Mack Leftwich started four games as a freshman.

Kugler, a longtime NFL offensive line coach, loves the running game. The Miners' best offensive weapon is Aaron Jones (881 rushing yards). He helped spark a rushing attack that was fourth best in C-USA (184.7 yards per game). Sophomore fullback Darrin Laufasa battled through an injury last year. If his brother, Jeremiah Laufasa, a Washington State transfer, is granted immediate eligibility to play this fall, the ground game will get a big boost.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ NEW MEXICO	35-42
S.6	Texas Tech	
S.13	New Mexico State	42-21
S.27	@ KANSAS STATE	
O.4	@ LOUISIANA TECH	35-38
O.11	Old Dominion	
O.25	@ TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO	13-32
N.1	Southern Miss	
N.8	@ WESTERN KENTUCKY	
N.15	North Texas	7-41
N.21	@ RICE	7-45
N.29	Middle Tennessee State	17-48

COACH

Larry Coker
Fourth year (19-15)
Career record: 79-30

Offensive coordinator: Kevin Brown (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Neal Neathery (fourth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 2-10
Stadium: Sun Bowl (51,500)
Tickets: 915-747-6150
Site: El Paso, Texas
Website: utepathletics.com
Twitter: @UTEPAthletics

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Jameill Showers (6-2, 230, Sr.)
TB	Aaron Jones (5-10, 185, So.)
FB	Darrin Laufasa (6-1, 235, So.)
LT	Jerel Watkins (6-3, 295, Sr.)
LG	Derek Elmendorff (6-3, 310, Fr.)
C	Eric Lee (6-1, 295, Jr.)
RG	Paulo Melendez (6-3, 305, Sr.)
RT	Christian Harper (6-4, 285, So.)
TE	Eric Tomlinson (6-7, 265, Sr.)
WR	Brandon Moss (6-3, 190, So.)
WR	Ian Hamilton (6-5, 230, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Nick Usher (6-3, 235, So.)
DT	Maurice Chavis (6-1, 275, Sr.)
NT	Gino Bresolin (6-2, 285, So.)
DE	Roy Robertson-Harris (6-7, 255, Jr.)
LB	Anthony Puente (5-11, 225, Sr.)
LB	Trey Brown (6-0, 215, Jr.)
CB	Ishmael Harrison (6-0, 195, Jr.)
CB	Adrian James (6-0, 195, Sr.)
S	Jameel Erving (6-1, 205, Sr.)
S	Devin Cockrell (5-11, 185, So.)
S	Dashone Smith (6-0, 190 So.)

Specialists

K	Jay Mattox (6-0, 175, So.)
P	Mike Ruggles (6-6, 210, So.)

Sporting News All-American

Matt Johnson

PROJECTED FINISH

EAST

1. **BOWLING GREEN** — Bowl Projection: GoDaddy Bowl
2. **BUFFALO** — Bowl Projection: Camellia Bowl
3. **OHIO** — Bowl Projection: Bahamas Bowl
4. **AKRON**
5. **KENT STATE**
6. **MIAMI (OHIO)**
7. **MASSACHUSETTS**

WEST

1. **NORTHERN ILLINOIS** — Bowl Projection: Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
2. **TOLEDO** — Bowl Projection: Boca Raton Bowl
3. **BALL STATE**
4. **CENTRAL MICHIGAN**
5. **WESTERN MICHIGAN**
6. **EASTERN MICHIGAN**

Wind beneath wings of BGSU Falcons shifts MAC's power balance eastward

BY RODNEY MCKISSIC | *Buffalo News*

The balance of power has shifted firmly to the Mid-American Conference East Division where Bowling Green, the defending champion, is the favorite for the divisional and league titles.

The Falcons, under first-year coach Dino Babers, are the unquestioned leader heading into August and could eventually crack the Top 25. It's on offense where Babers is creating the most buzz by running a system akin to high-scoring Baylor where he was once an assistant.

His team last year at Football Championship Subdivision Eastern Illinois averaged 589.5 yards and 48.2 points a contest and quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo passed for 5,050 yards and 53 touchdowns while two tailbacks combined for 2,500 yards and 25 scores. The Panthers thumped San Diego State, 40-19, in the season opener and lost at Northern Illinois by a mere four points.

Oh, my.

"I can't be modest about the things we do on offense," Babers told reporters after he was hired. "I will be humble, but we know what we're doing on offense, and we're going to be good."

Indeed, one glance at the roster had to make Babers smile. Offensively, Bowling Green returns nearly every skill player. Tailback Travis Greene set a school season record with 1,594 yards rushing and scored 11 touchdowns, while quarterback Matt Johnson completed 64.2 percent of his passes for 3,467 yards and 25 touchdowns with just seven interceptions. Seven of the top eight receivers are back.

The Falcons and Northern Illinois, the defending West Division champ, overshadow a deep conference with teams such as Buffalo and Ohio in the East Division and Toledo and Ball State in the West capable of reaching bowl eligibility.

The West will feature a tight race, even if Northern Illinois seems one step ahead of its divisional rivals. But the Huskies must replace All-America quarterback Jordan Lynch, which won't be an easy task.

The coach under the most intense microscope is Dan Enos at Central Michigan, which enjoyed success under Brian Kelly and Butch Jones but has slipped into mediocrity. One team that could surprise is Akron, which ended 2013 winning four of its last five, including an upset of Toledo that likely kept the Rockets from earning a bowl bid.

TRENDING

Three stories to watch

1 Life after Lynch: Northern Illinois' stiffest challenge is finding a replacement for Heisman Trophy finalist Jordan Lynch at QB. Matt McIntosh and Drew Hare saw a little action last season, while Anthony Maddie sat out 2013 after transferring from Western Michigan.

RECRUITING RANKINGS

by JC Shurburtt, 247Sports

247 COMPOSITE

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL PLAYERS	★★★★★ 5-STAR RECRUITS	★★★★ 4-STAR RECRUITS	★★★ 3-STAR RECRUITS	POINTS
1	Western Michigan	27	0	0	15	153.70
2	Toledo	23	0	0	7	117.53
3	Buffalo	23	0	0	6	111.24
4	Northern Illinois	31	0	0	4	109.96
5	Bowling Green	21	0	0	3	105.13
6	Ball State	18	0	0	5	104.90
7	Ohio	24	0	0	5	102.45
8	Massachusetts	17	0	0	4	90.20
9	Akron	16	0	0	4	89.14
10	Eastern Michigan	20	0	0	5	84.86
11	Central Michigan	17	0	0	1	83.15
12	Miami (Ohio)	25	0	0	2	81.99
13	Kent State	21	0	0	4	81.79

ALL-MAC

Offense

QB **Matt Johnson,** Jr., Bowling Green
RB **Travis Greene,** Jr., Bowling Green
RB **Jahwan Edwards,** Sr., Ball State
OL **Greg Mancz,** Sr., Toledo
OL **Andy Phillips,** Sr., Central Michigan
OL **Jacob Richard,** Jr., Ball State
OL **Alex Huettel,** Jr., Bowling Green
OL **Tyler Loos,** Sr., Northern Illinois
TE **Tyreese Russell,** Sr., Eastern Michigan
WR **Tommylee Lewis,** Sr., Northern Illinois
WR **Titus Davis,** Sr., Central Michigan

Defense

DE **Jason Meehan,** Sr., Northern Illinois
DT **Treyvon Hester,** So., Toledo
DT **Tarell Basham,** So., Ohio
DE **Perez Ford,** Jr., Northern Illinois
LB **Junior Sylvestre,** Sr., Toledo
LB **Jamaal Bass,** Sr., Northern Illinois
LB **Jatavis Brown,** Jr., Akron
CB **Donald Celiscar,** Sr., Western Michigan
CB **Devin Bass,** Jr., Ohio
S **Dechane Durante,** Sr., Northern Illinois
S **Josh Kristoff,** Sr., Ohio

Specialists

K **Jeremiah Detmer,** Sr., Toledo
P **Anthony Melchiori,** Jr., Kent State

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The MAC has been home to a number of gifted quarterbacks through the years and Johnson might be the next one to protect the legacy.

Junior Sylvestre

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

What Sylvestre lacks in size, he makes up with uncanny instincts. A college linebacker who could be moved to strong safety as a pro.

JOHNSON: CARLOS OSORIO / AP; SYLVESTRE: UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

ASCENDING

AKRON

The Zips gathered momentum late with four victories in the final five games, including a confidence-boosting win over Toledo to close out the season.

DESCENDING

MASSACHUSETTS

The future of the program on the FBS level is in question now that the Minutemen are leaving the league after the 2015 season.

2 Zip-a-dee-doo-dah: Looking for a league dark horse? Keep an eye on Akron, which under coach Terry Bowden jumped from one win two years ago to 5-7 in 2013. The next reasonable step is bowl eligibility.

3 Next big MAC thing: The next league coach to land a big-time job should be Ball State's Pete Lembo, who was in play for openings at Connecticut and Wake Forest in the offseason.

RATING THE MAC

FASTEST RECEIVER
Titus Davis, WR, Central Michigan
Blows by pesky DBs.

BEST HANDS
Jordan Williams, WR, Ball State
Hauled in 10 TDs as a freshman in 2013.

BEST PASSING QB
Matt Johnson, QB, Bowling Green
Second in the MAC in touchdown passes and passing yardage in 2013.

BEST RUNNING QB
Austin Gearing, QB, Miami (Ohio)
A decisive runner who will become a bigger part of the RedHawks' offense.

MOST ELUSIVE RB
Travis Greene, RB, Bowling Green
At 5.7 yards per carry, he knows how to make people whiff.

BEST INSTINCTS
Bryson Albright, DT, Miami (Ohio)
Can usually be found in the backfield.

BEST ATHLETE
Devin Campbell, RB, Buffalo
Whether, he lines up in the backfield, the slot or as a return man, he makes things happen.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Joe Licata, QB, Buffalo
Cool and collected, he has led the Bulls to 11 wins in 17 career starts.

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Dechane Durante, FS, Northern Illinois
The anchor of the Huskies' secondary.

TOP IMPACT FROSH
Nilijah Ballew, DB, Bowling Green
Will fill a huge hole in a secondary decimated by graduation.

HARDEST HITTER
Junior Sylvestre, LB, Toledo
Led the MAC with 49 solo tackles last year.

BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER
Kyle Pohl, QB, Akron
Limited by an ankle injury last season but ready to step into a larger role.

BEST INTERVIEW
Trevor Sales, C, Buffalo
He's part center, part DJ, part rapper.

BEST COACH AS STRATEGIST
Frank Solich, Ohio
The former Nebraska coach has built a consistent winner at the one-time league laughingstock.

BEST COACH AS RECRUITER
P.J. Fleck, Western Michigan
Smart, aggressive recruiter who pulled in prospects from 10 states this year.

HOTTEST SEAT
Dan Enos, Central Michigan
The Chippewas have fallen from the MAC's elite under his watch.

BEST VENUE
Waldo Stadium, Western Michigan
Best place to watch a game in the MAC, bar none.

PLAYER MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (OFF THE FIELD)
Jordan Italiano, Kent State
Chemistry/Pre-Med major with a 3.96 grade-point average.

BOWLING GREEN FALCONS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

MAC EAST

1

D.J. Lynch (7)

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	@ WESTERN KENTUCKY	
S.6	VMI	
S.13	Indiana	10-42
S.20	@ WISCONSIN	
S.27	@ MASSACHUSETTS	28-7
O.4	Buffalo	24-7
O.11	@ OHIO	49-0
O.18	Western Michigan	
N.4	@ AKRON	31-14
N.12	Kent State	41-22
N.19	@ TOLEDO	25-28
N.28	Ball State	

COACH

Dino Babers

First year

Career record: 19-7

Offensive coordinators: Sterlin Gilbert (first year) and Matt Mattox (first year)

Defensive coordinator: Kim McCloud (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 10-4

(Lost to Pittsburgh in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl, 30-27)

Stadium: Doyt L. Perry Stadium (24,000)

Tickets: 419-372-0000

Site: Bowling Green, Ohio

Website: bgsufalcons.com

Twitter: @BGathletics

When Bowling Green earned its first outright Mid-American Conference championship in 21 years, the proclamations over and over were that the Falcons are here to stay. That sentiment remained even after coach Dave Clawson left for Wake Forest and was replaced by Dino Babers, who was quite successful in his two-year stint at FCS Eastern Illinois. It helps that Clawson stocked Babers, who promises to run a warped-speed attack bordering on ridiculous, with plenty of toys to play with.

Quarterback Matt Johnson is poised to build on his breakout season of a year ago. Johnson started 13 games last season, after taking over for struggling Matt Schilz in the season opener against Tulsa, and tossed for 3,467 yards, 25 touchdowns and just seven interceptions. Also returning is tailback Travis Greene, who broke the program's 62-year school record with 1,594 yards rushing, earning him second-team All-MAC honors. Greene, who also ran for 11 touchdowns, is part of a deep bench of tailbacks that includes Andre Givens, Fred Coppet and William Houston.

Johnson's favorite targets—wideout Shaun Joplin and tight end Alex Bayer—must be replaced. One option is Gehrig Dieter, a transfer from SMU who sat out last season. Deiter's talents were on display in the spring game with seven receptions for 99 yards and two touchdowns. Another is Heath Jackson who stepped up last season when Chris Gallon went down with a knee injury. Jackson finished with 32 receptions for 364 yards and three touchdowns. Also, do-everything Ryan Burbrink, a second-team All-MAC punt returner, could develop into a playmaker at slot receiver. There's another burner in Ronnie Moore, who scored a team-high seven receiving touchdowns on just 28 receptions for 547 yards.

Bowling Green returns three starters on the offensive line. Alex Huettel, a second-team All-MAC selection, anchors the unit at right guard. Sophomores Logan Dietz and Jacob Bennett join Huettel as returning starters.

Defensively, the linebacking corps features All-MAC selections D.J. Lynch and Gabe Martin, but who replaces Paul Swan at middle linebacker is a concern.

Difference-maker

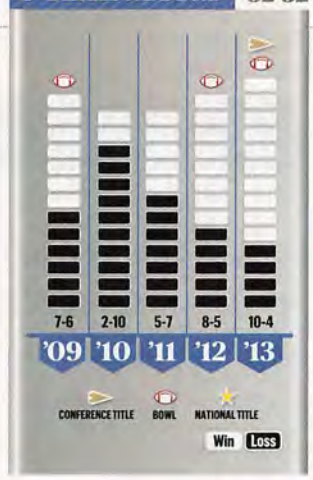
D.J. Lynch, LB

Lynch was not only meeting backs around the edges, but deep in the backfield as well last season. Mixing aggressiveness and savvy, the 6-0, 250-pound senior from Pontiac, Mich., had eight tackles for loss and two sacks in 2013 in addition to his team-leading 85 tackles. He saved his best performances for the biggest games, like the season-high 11 tackles he made in the Falcons' 47-27 win over Northern Illinois in the MAC Championship Game.

BOTTOM LINE

It should be a smooth transition from Clawson to Babers. The Falcons will again be among the most talented teams in the MAC.

5-YEAR RECORD 32-32



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Matt Johnson (6-0, 215, Jr.)
RB	Travis Greene (5-10, 181, Jr.)
LT	Jacob Bennett (6-4, 316, So.)
LG	Spencer Cairo (6-2, 302, Jr.)
C	J.J. Beggan (6-2, 285, So.)
RG	Alex Huettel (6-3, 292, Jr.)
RT	Logan Dietz (6-5, 292, So.)
TE	Logan Larson (6-3, 250, Fr.)
WR	Gehrig Dieter (6-3, 209, So.)
WR	Heath Jackson (5-11, 187, Sr.)
WR	Ryan Burbrink (5-8, 188, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Bryan Thomas (6-2, 257, Sr.)
DT	Mike Minns (5-10, 293, Jr.)
DT	Taylor Royster (5-9, 257, Jr.)
DE	Kendall Montgomery (6-5, 262, Sr.)
OLB	D.J. Lynch (6-0, 250, Sr.)
MLB	Paul Senn (6-1, 217, Sr.)
OLB	Gabe Martin (6-1, 229, Sr.)
CB	Will Watson (5-11, 175, Jr.)
CB	Darrell Hunter II (5-8, 174, Jr.)
FS	Ryland Ward (5-10, 206, Sr.)
SS	Jude Adjei-Barimah (5-10, 204, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Tyler Tate (5-11, 173, Jr.)
P	Joe Davidson (6-7, 216, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Nilijah Ballew,** S ★★★
2. **Cody Callaway,** QB ★★★
3. **Clint Stephens,** WR ★★★

The 6-1, 180-pound Ballew originally committed to Louisville last year when Charlie Strong was the Cardinals' coach, but when Strong took the job at Texas, the Cincinnati product decommitted and wound up at Bowling Green. He could find immediate playing time in the secondary at safety. The 6-2, 185-pound Callaway, who accounted for nearly 9,000 yards from scrimmage during his high school career at Grafton (Ohio) Midview, could be BGSU's heir apparent under center. The Falcons pulled 5-9, 170-pound slot receiver Stephens out of talent-rich Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

LYNCH: SCOTT W. GRAU / ICON SMI

2 BUFFALO BULLS

After losing Khalil Mack, Branden Oliver and Alex Neutz–three of the most productive players in Buffalo history–coach Jeff Quinn hopes the Bulls will improve rather than live in the past. The retooled secondary, defensive line and receiving corps are Quinn's biggest questions, and, whether he's ready to admit it or not, the four-year starting acts of Mack, Oliver and Neutz will be tough to follow.

At least Buffalo returns quarterback Joe Licata, whose 24 touchdown passes last year were one shy of the single-season school record. Licata had hip surgery in the offseason and missed spring practice but was cleared to resume workouts in June. Anthone Taylor, who rushed for 399 yards and three touchdowns, leads a potent backfield that includes Devin Campbell and Jordan Johnson, a punishing runner who has been slowed by injuries.

Someone from the inexperienced receiving corp needs to step up. Boise Ross has the speed and ability to be a quality playmaker after showing flashes as a true freshman, while senior Devon Hughes made major strides in the offseason. All five starters return on a line anchored by versatile senior left guard Andre Davis, a starter for 37 consecutive games.

Both defensive ends have to be replaced but nose guard Kristjan Sokoli, who started all 13 games last season, is back, as is All-MAC selection Adam Redden at linebacker. Senior linebacker Lee Skinner has started all 37 games and has ranked second on the Bulls in tackles in each of his first three seasons. In the secondary, Cortney Lester has all-league potential.

BOTTOM LINE: Buffalo's schedule is wired for success–four of the first five games are at home–but while the Bulls remain a MAC contender, challenging Bowling Green for the East Division crown will be difficult.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Duquesne	
S.6	@ ARMY	
S.12	Baylor	13-70
S.20	Norfolk State	
S.27	Miami (OH)	44-7
O.4	@ BOWLING GREEN	7-24
O.11	@ EASTERN MICHIGAN	42-14
O.25	Central Michigan	
N.5	@ OHIO	30-3
N.11	Akron	
N.19	Kent State	41-21
N.28	@ MASSACHUSETTS	32-3

COACH
Jeff Quinn
Fifth year (17-32)
Career record: 18-33

Offensive coordinator: Alex Wood (fourth year)
Defensive coordinators: Lou Tepper (third year) and Maurice Linguist (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Lost to San Diego State in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, 49-24)
Stadium: UB Stadium (29,013)
Tickets: 877-UB-THERE
Site: Buffalo
Website: ubbulls.com
Twitter: @UBAthletics

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Joe Licata (6-2, 226, Jr.)
RB Anthone Taylor (5-10, 209, Jr.)
LT John Kling (6-7, 305, Jr.)
LG Andre Davis (6-4, 320, Sr.)
C Trevor Sales (6-2, 327, Sr.)
RG Dillon Guy (6-4, 320, Sr.)
RT Jake Silas (6-7, 310, Sr.)
TE Matt Weiser (6-5, 241, Jr.)
WR Boise Ross (6-0, 173, So.)
WR Devon Hughes (6-0, 188, Sr.)
WR John Dunmore (6-0, 178, Sr.)

Defense
DE Tedroy Lynch (6-2, 249, Sr.)
NG Kristjan Sokoli (6-5, 300, Sr.)
DE Dalton Barksdale (6-3, 304, Sr.)
OLB Jarrett Franklin (6-0, 200, So.)
ILB Lee Skinner (6-2, 233, Sr.)
ILB Jake Stockman (6-2, 237, Sr.)
OLB Adam Redden (6-1, 202, Sr.)
CB Cortney Lester (6-0, 182, Sr.)
CB Marqus Baker (5-10, 181, Jr.)
FS Witney Sherry (6-0, 188, Sr.)
SS Okezie Alozie (6-0, 208, Jr.)

Specialists
K Patrick Clarke (6-2, 193, Sr.)
P Tyler Grassman (6-1, 195, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

3 OHIO BOBCATS

Ohio, which finished 7-6 with a berth in the Beef O'Brady's Bowl last year, faces major rebuilding on offense. Eight of the 11 starters are gone and 11 seniors total. The most significant void is at quarterback.

Derrius Vick, a fourth-year junior, is the favorite to replace three-year starter Tyler Tettleton at quarterback, although nothing is set in stone. Four others are in play, including touted freshman recruit Joey Duckworth. Vick began the summer atop the depth chart and sophomore J.D. Sprague, who appeared in four games in 2013, is the backup. Sophomore Greg Windham, suspended for all of last season, and redshirt freshman Dylan Leffingwell are also part of the heated competition.

Chase Cochran is the only one of the top six receivers to return, but he missed the spring with an injury. A wild card at receiver is Iowa transfer Cam Wilson, who appeared ready to burst into stardom with the Hawkeyes until an off-the-field incident forced him to leave the team. Wilson could prove to be valuable for the Bobcats. Six players with experience return on the offensive line but none of them are seniors.

Defensively, the Bobcats have an impressive rusher off the edge in sophomore Tarell Basham, who registered 7.5 sacks as a true freshman, the fifth-highest single-season total in school history. He made just five starts. The linebackers are solid, starting with junior middle linebacker Ben Russell, who finished with 8.5 tackles for a loss last season, and Jovon Johnson, who recorded 61 stops.

Despite the loss of safety Xavier Hughes and cornerback Travis Carrie, there is experience in a very deep secondary. Cornerback Devin Bass finished with 15 pass breakups, while strong safety Josh Kristoff and free safety Thad Ingol were productive as juniors.

BOTTOM LINE: The rebuilding job on offense is formidable, but 10th-year coach Frank Solich is usually up to that kind of task.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ KENT STATE	13-44
S.6	@ KENTUCKY	
S.13	@ MARSHALL	34-31
S.20	Idaho	
S.27	Eastern Illinois	
O.4	@ CENTRAL MICHIGAN	23-26
O.11	Bowling Green	0-49
O.18	Akron	43-3
O.25	@ WESTERN MICHIGAN	
N.5	Buffalo	3-30
N.18	Northern Illinois	
N.25	@ MIAMI (OH)	41-16

COACH
Frank Solich
10th year (66-50)
Career record: 124-69

Offensive coordinator: Tim Albin (10th year)
Defensive coordinator: Jimmy Burrow (10th year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Lost to East Carolina in the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl, 37-20)
Stadium: Peden Stadium (24,000)
Tickets: 800-575-2287
Site: Athens, Ohio
Website: ohiobobcats.com
Twitter: @OhioFootball

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Derrius Vick (6-1, 200, Jr.)
RB Daz'mond Patterson (5-7, 185, Jr.)
LT Mike McQueen (6-6, 300, Jr.)
LG Mike Lucas (6-4, 311, Jr.)
C Lucas Powell (6-3, 295, Jr.)
RG Durrell Wood (6-3, 344, So.)
RT Troy Watson (6-6, 290, So.)
TE Troy Mangen (6-5, 252, Fr.)
WR Chase Cochran (6-2, 192, Sr.)
WR Sebastian Smith (6-3, 190, So.)
WR Landon Smith (6-0, 188, Sr.)

Defense
DE Kurt Laseak (6-4, 236, So.)
DT Antwan Crutcher (6-2, 304, Sr.)
DT Cameron McLeod (6-5, 282, Sr.)
DE Tarell Basham (6-4, 250, So.)
OLB Jovan Johnson (6-0, 215, Jr.)
MLB Ben Russell (6-1, 230, Jr.)
OLB William Johnson (6-2, 215, So.)
CB Devin Bass (5-9, 185, Jr.)
CB Ian Wells (5-11, 195, Jr.)
FS Thad Ingol (6-0, 215, Sr.)
SS Josh Kristoff (6-0, 200, Sr.)

Specialists
K Josiah Yazdani (5-10, 200, Jr.)
P Grant Venham (6-3, 210, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

4 AKRON ZIPS

Things are going according to plan for coach Terry Bowden and Akron. This was a program with one FBS win from 2010-12, so last year's 5-7 record–including winning four of five to close out the season–is a sign of progression.

There's no question who's behind center: Junior Kyle Pohl made great improvement in the Zips' quarterback-centric offense last season, according to Bowden. Pohl was limited by a sprained ankle but he's healthy now and has shown more mobility. The Zips return starters Jawon Chisholm and Conor Hundley at tailback, but Bowden wants to develop a third back to put into the rotation and that could be D.J. Jones or Hakeem Lawrence. The Zips know what to expect from Chisholm, a back blessed with power and speed who gained 869 yards last season and scored eight touchdowns. Diminutive sophomore Fransohn Bickley was Akron's most reliable receiver in 2013.

On the offensive line, the Zips lost both tackles and their right guard. Bowden did a smart thing by redshirting and developing Quaison Osborne and Isaiah Williams, who converted from defensive lineman and could be pushed into a starting role.

The secondary was hit hard with the losses of cornerbacks Malachi Freeman and Emmanuel Lartey. Kris Givens, a junior-college transfer from Holmes CC in Mississippi, and junior Bryce Cheek are the top candidates to fill the hole at corner. If that doesn't work, safety Johnny Robinson will shift to corner. There's experience up front with end Nordly Capi and tackle Cody Grice, who combined for 11 tackles for a loss a year ago.

BOTTOM LINE: The Zips have a realistic opportunity to contend in the East Division because there's a level of comfort with Bowden's offense and the defense of coordinator Chuck Amato after two full seasons. So, naturally, expectations are higher. Still, Bowden needs the returning starters to increase their productivity and last year's reserves to fill voids left by graduation.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Howard	
S.6	@ PENN STATE	
S.20	Marshall	
S.27	@ PITTSBURGH	
O.4	Eastern Michigan	
O.11	Miami (OH)	24-17
O.18	@ OHIO	3-43
O.25	@ BALL STATE	24-42
N.4	Bowling Green	14-31
N.11	@ BUFFALO	
N.18	Massachusetts	14-13
N.25	@ KENT STATE	16-7

COACH

Terry Bowden
Third year (6-18)
Career record: 146-80-2

Offensive coordinator: A.J. Milwee (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Chuck Amato (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 5-7
Stadium: InfoCision Stadium (30,000)
Tickets: 888-99-AKRON
Site: Akron, Ohio
Website: gozips.com
Twitter: @ZipsFB

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Kyle Pohl (6-3, 213, Jr.)
RB Jawon Chisholm (6-1, 206, Sr.)
LT Quaison Osborne (6-3, 297, Jr.)
LG Joe McNamara (6-1, 312, Sr.)
C Travis Switzer (6-2, 296, Sr.)
RG Dylan Brumbaugh (6-5, 310, Jr.)
RT Cedric Brittnum (6-7, 296, Jr.)
TE Jerome Lewis (6-3, 231, Sr.)
WR Zach D'Orazio (6-2, 213, Jr.)
WR Fransohn Bickley (5-6, 138, So.)
WR L.T. Smith (6-0, 203, Sr.)

Defense

DE Nordly Capi (6-3, 249, Sr.)
DT Cody Grice (5-11, 283, Jr.)
DT Keontae Hollis (6-1, 295, Sr.)
DE Alfonso Horner (6-3, 237, Jr.)
OLB Jatavis Brown (5-11, 212, Jr.)
MLB C.J. Mizell (6-2, 230, Sr.)
OLB Justin March (6-0, 222, Sr.)
CB Bryce Cheek (6-0, 188, Jr.)
CB Kris Givens (5-10, 172, Jr.)
FS Johnny Robinson (5-9, 187, Sr.)
SS Cory Morrow (6-0, 204, So.)

Specialists

K Robert Stein (5-8, 171, Jr.)
P Zach Paul (6-3, 221, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

5 KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES

The heart and soul of Kent State is its defense, which returns eight players who started at least six games in 2013. There's quality depth up front, including both nose tackles (Nate Terhune and Chris Fairchild) and senior Richard Gray is back after sitting out all of last season. Middle linebacker Matt Dellinger, who ranked second on the team with 77 tackles, is back, along with safety Jordan Italiano (76 tackles). The secondary also returns four corners, including Dylan Farrington and Malcolm Pannell, who combined for five interceptions last season.

Quarterback is in the capable hands of sophomore Colin Reardon, whose ability to run and pass makes him a dangerous threat. Reardon threw for 1,957 yards and ran for 336 while averaging eight yards a carry in 2013.

Starting tailback Trayion Durham missed the majority of the spring after having foot surgery in late December as a precautionary measure but is expected to be fully recovered by training camp.

At wide receiver, senior Chris Humphrey returns after recording 51 receptions for 613 yards last season. The position, however, is full of question marks, the biggest being lack of speed and reliable hands.

Last season was one of transition on the offensive line, but now there's depth with five returners playing in all 12 games last year and each starting at least four. Tackle Terrell Johnson will enter his senior campaign with 17 career starts.

The deepest position on offense is tight end, so 6-7, 250-pound redshirt freshman Brock Macauley has been moved to tackle.

All of the Golden Flashes' specialists are back, including All-MAC kicker Anthony Melchiori.

BOTTOM LINE: Paul Haynes has a good shot at two more wins and a .500 record in his second season as head coach in Kent.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Ohio	44-13
S.6	South Alabama	21-38
S.13	@ OHIO STATE	
S.27	@ VIRGINIA	
O.4	@ NORTHERN ILLINOIS	24-38
O.11	Massachusetts	
O.18	Army	
O.25	@ MIAMI (OH)	24-6
N.4	Toledo	
N.12	@ BOWLING GREEN	22-41
N.19	@ BUFFALO	21-41
N.25	Akron	7-16

COACH

Paul Haynes
Second year (4-8)
Career record: 4-8

Offensive coordinator: Brian Rock (fourth year)
Defensive coordinator: Brian George (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 4-8
Stadium: Dix Stadium (25,319)
Tickets: 330-672-2244
Site: Kent, Ohio
Website: kentstatesports.com
Twitter: @KentStFootball

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Colin Reardon (6-1, 202, So.)
RB Trayion Durham (6-1, 248, Sr.)
LT Terrell Johnson (6-4, 302, Sr.)
LG Reno Reda (6-6, 275, So.)
C Alex Nielsen (6-4, 287, So.)
RG Anthony Pruitt (6-2, 315, Jr.)
RT Jason Bitsko (6-3, 280, Jr.)
TE Casey Pierce (6-4, 235, Sr.)
WR Chris Humphrey (6-1, 194, Sr.)
WR Josh Boyle (5-9, 173, Jr.)
WR Ernest Calhoun (5-6, 150, So.)

Defense

DE Nate Vance (6-1, 230, Sr.)
DT Chris Fairchild (6-2, 312, Jr.)
DT Nate Terhune (6-4, 265, Sr.)
DE Terrence Waugh (6-2, 236, So.)
OLB DeVante' Strickland (6-1, 231, Sr.)
MLB Matt Dellinger (6-1, 220, Jr.)
OLB Darius Redmond (6-0, 202, So.)
CB Malcolm Pannell (5-10, 172, Jr.)
CB Dylan Farrington (6-1, 200, Sr.)
FS Keenan Stalls (6-0, 185, Jr.)
SS Jordan Italiano (5-10, 207, Jr.)

Specialists

K Anthony Melchiori (5-11, 186, Jr.)
P Andrew Horning (6-1, 205, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

6 MIAMI (OHIO) REDHAWKS

Miami was once one of the dominant programs in the Mid-American Conference–the RedHawks are just four years removed from their last league title–but things fell apart quickly. They've won eight games since 2010 (including going 0-12 last season), which led to the departure of coach Don Treadwell and the hiring of Chuck Martin, who knows a lot about building winners.

Martin comes to Miami with a 74-7 career record as a head coach, helping Division 2 Grand Valley State University to back-to-back national championships in 2005 and 2006. Fifteen starters return from a year ago, but Martin let it be known that positions are up for grabs. Gone is quarterback Austin Boucher, who suffered a season-ending injury against Ohio that cleared the way for Austin Gearing and Drew Kummer.

Gearing completed 24 of 54 passes for 188 yards, while Kummer added 267 yards passing on 48 passes. But the job could go to Notre Dame graduate transfer Andrew Hendrix, who completed his degree in December and has one season of eligibility remaining. Martin may not decide on a starter until the season opener.

Miami, which ranked 114th nationally in rushing, definitely needs more production at tailback, where Spencer Treadwell, Robert Williams III and Spencer McInnis combined for just 266 yards on the ground. There is, however, a deep group of receivers led by seniors Dawan Scott and David Frazier, both who led the team with 28 receptions. The offensive line of Jeff Tanner, Trevan Brown, Brandyn Cook and Zach Lewis has a combined 64 starts.

Defensively, one of the MAC's best linebackers returns in Kent Kern, who led the team with 98 tackles last year. Playing alongside Kern will be junior Josh Dooley, who was third on the team with 87 tackles. At safety, Miami returns both starters in Brison Burris and Jay Mastin.

BOTTOM LINE: It's going to be a long road back for this once-proud program, and Martin may wonder if the RedHawks can beat D2 Grand Valley at times this season.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Marshall	14-52
S.6	Eastern Kentucky	
S.13	@ MICHIGAN	
S.20	@ CINCINNATI	0-14
S.27	@ BUFFALO	7-44
O.4	Massachusetts	10-17
O.11	@ AKRON	17-24
O.18	@ NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
O.25	Kent State	6-24
N.1	Western Michigan	
N.15	@ CENTRAL MICHIGAN	9-21
N.25	Ohio	16-41

COACH
Chuck Martin
First year
Career record: 74-7

Offensive coordinators:
George Barnett (first year)
Eric Koehler (first year)
Defensive coordinator:
Matt Pawlowski (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 0-12
Stadium: Yager Stadium (24,286)
Tickets: 866-MUHAWKS
Site: Oxford, Ohio
Website: muredhawks.com
Twitter: @MiamiRedHawks

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Austin Gearing (6-5, 220, So.)
RB Spencer Treadwell (5-10, 205, Jr.)
LT Jeff Tanner (6-3, 293, Sr.)
LG Trevan Brown (6-4, 287, Jr.)
C Marcus Matthews (6-3, 307, Sr.)
RG Brandyn Cook (6-2, 305, So.)
RT Zach Lewis (6-6, 281, Sr.)
TE Zach Hovey (6-5, 230, Fr.)
WR Dawan Scott (6-1, 191, Sr.)
WR David Frazier (6-0, 175, Sr.)
WR Alvonta Jenkins (6-1, 203, Jr.)

Defense
DE Bryson Albright (6-5, 224, Jr.)
DT Mwanza Wamulumba (6-3, 281, Sr.)
DT Jimmy Rousher (6-3, 273, So.)
DE J'Terius Brown (6-3, 239, So.)
OLB Josh Dooley (6-0, 212, Jr.)
MLB Kent Kern (6-1, 231, Jr.)
OLB Tyler Tucker (6-2, 218, Jr.)
CB Heath Harding (5-10, 175, So.)
CB Chrishawn Dupuy (5-9, 175, Sr.)
FS Brison Burris (5-10, 183, Sr.)
SS Jay Mastin (6-1, 214, Jr.)

Specialists
K Kaleb Patterson (5-9, 175, Jr.)
P Drew Kummer (6-3, 198, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

7 UMASS MINUTEMEN

Simply put, Massachusetts is at a crossroads. The program will leave the MAC after the 2015 season and the school is currently studying potential conference alignments. So far, UMass's move to the FBS hasn't bared much fruit and it's iffy how attractive the Minutemen would be to another conference.

They've gone 2-22 overall with a 2-14 league record during a two-year MAC tenure under former coach Charley Molnar, who was fired in December. Enter Mark Whipple, whose first go-round with UMass on the FCS level resulted in immediate success. Whipple, who will utilize a pro-style attack, will serve as the offensive coordinator while his defensive coordinator will be another former FCS coach, Tom Masella, whose stops include Fairfield, Boston University and Fordham.

Quarterback A.J. Doyle, who tossed nearly two interceptions for every touchdown last year, was solid in the spring but he can hear the footsteps of Marshall transfer Blake Frohnapfel. A two-year backup behind Rakeem Cato, Frohnapfel is utilizing the graduate-transfer rule at UMass, where he will be expected to challenge for the starting job.

The defense will be more aggressive under Masella. UMass will blitz more frequently with a simplified package suitable for athletic linemen like ends Peter Angeh and Enock Asante and tackle Daniel Maynes. Linebackers Trey Seals and Kassan Messiah will be allowed to roam freely. Messiah, who fell out of favor with Molnar and barely played last season, is rejuvenated and a favorite of Masella. Masella has also added Cover 3 and Cover 2 coverage schemes that should help cornerback Trey Dudley-Giles make better reads. Dudley-Giles and Randall Jette were arguably the most trustworthy players in the secondary last season.

BOTTOM LINE: Whipple will likely struggle initially, as only a handful of seniors are on the roster.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Boston College*	
S.6	Colorado*	
S.13	@ VANDERBILT	7-24
S.20	@ PENN STATE	
S.27	Bowling Green	7-28
O.4	@ MIAMI (OH)	17-10
O.11	@ KENT STATE	
O.18	Eastern Michigan*	
O.25	@ TOLEDO	
N.12	Ball State	
N.18	@ AKRON	13-14
N.28	Buffalo	3-32

*At Foxboro, MA

COACH
Mark Whipple
Seventh year (49-26)
Career record: 120-60

Offensive coordinator:
Mark Whipple
Defensive coordinator:
Tom Masella (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 1-11
Stadiums: McGuirk Stadium (17,000) and Gillette Stadium (68,756)
Tickets: 866-UMASS-TIX
Site: Amherst, Mass.
Website: umassathletics.com
Twitter: @UMassFootball

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB A.J. Doyle (6-3, 226, Jr.)
FB Daquan Mack (6-1, 255, Fr.)
RB Lorenzo Woodley (6-0, 215, Fr.)
LT Tyrell Smith (6-5, 295, So.)
LG Elijah Wilkinson (6-4, 330, Fr.)
C Matt Sparks (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RG Josh Bruns (6-5, 285, Sr.)
RT Tyshon Henderson (6-7, 339, So.)
TE Brandon Howard (6-5, 250, So.)
WR Tajae Sharpe (6-2, 185, Jr.)
WR Jalen Williams (6-3, 205, Jr.)

Defense
DE Peter Angeh (6-2, 245, So.)
NT Daniel Maynes (6-2, 285, Sr.)
DE Enock Asante (6-2, 260, Fr.)
OLB Trey Seals (6-4, 231, Jr.)
ILB Jovan Santos-Knox (6-2, 240, Jr.)
ILB Stanley Andre (6-2, 240, Sr.)
OLB Kassan Messiah (6-4, 225, Jr.)
CB Randall Jette (5-11, 180, Jr.)
CB Trey Dudley-Giles (5-11, 185, Jr.)
FS D'Metrius Williams (5-11, 180, So.)
SS Joe Colton (5-8, 195, Jr.)

Specialists
K Blake Lucas (5-8, 166, Jr.)
P Logan Laurent (6-3, 210, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES

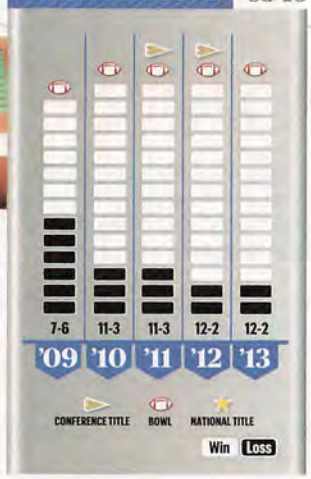
PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

MAC WEST

1

Jamaal Bass

5-YEAR RECORD 53-16



2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Presbyterian	
S.6	@ NORTHWESTERN	
S.12	@ UNLV	
S.20	@ ARKANSAS	
O.4	Kent State	38-24
O.11	Central Michigan	38-17
O.18	Miami (OH)	
O.25	@ EASTERN MICHIGAN	59-20
N.5	@ BALL STATE	48-27
N.11	Toledo	35-17
N.18	@ OHIO	
N.28	@ WESTERN MICHIGAN	33-14

COACH

Rod Carey

Second year (12-2)

Career record: 12-2

Offensive coordinator: Bob Cole (second year)

Defensive coordinator: Jay Niemann (fourth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 12-2

(Lost to Utah State in the Poinsettia Bowl, 21-14)

Stadium: Huskie Stadium (23,595)

Tickets: 815-752-6800

Site: DeKalb, Ill.

Website: niuhuskies.com

Twitter: @PrideInThePack

There are so many changes for the Mid-American Conference's premier program. The most significant one is palpable: Jordan Lynch, who helped raise Northern Illinois to heights never seen before, is no longer under center.

All Lynch did was help the Huskies win 24 games and earn an Orange Bowl appearance prior to taking a trip to New York as a Heisman Trophy finalist at the end of last season. It's the first time since 2010 that the Huskies are going into the season without having named their starting quarterback.

Rod Carey won't name a starter until training camp, but the competition among sophomores Drew Hare and Anthony Maddie and junior Matt McIntosh is the talk around DeKalb. They took equal reps in the spring and will continue to do so in the summer.

Northern Illinois fans have been spoiled by Lynch and his predecessor, Chandler Harnish, the last three seasons, but maybe one of the three candidates will end up enjoying similar success. Hare and McIntosh received limited experience in routs last season, while Maddie worked with the scout team after transferring from MAC rival Western Michigan.

Meanwhile, the Huskies receiving corps of Tommylee Lewis, Da'Ron Brown and Juwan Brescacin combined for 165 receptions and 1,966 yards a year ago. The offensive line, which returns three starters, is arguably the best in the MAC. All-league right tackle Tyler Loos is back to anchor a unit that includes center Andrew Ness and right guard Aidan Conlon.

Whoever takes over at quarterback will have the help of a strong running game with Cameron Stingily and Akeem Daniels. Stingily is a punishing back who complemented Lynch with 1,119 yards and nine touchdowns a year ago.

The Huskies' strongest unit is at linebacker with Jamaal Bass and Michael Santacaterina on the outside and Boomer Mays in the middle.

Difference-maker

Jamaal Bass, LB

While former Huskies quarterback Jordan Lynch had folks talking Heisman last year, Bass was not so quietly adding to an already-impressive career stat line. As a junior, his ability to elude blocks helped him achieve a second straight season with 80 or more tackles. The 5-10, 225-pound linebacker from Miramar, Fla., started 2013 off with nine tackles in a big 30-27 upset win at Iowa, and then went on to produce eight or more tackles on three more occasions.

BOTTOM LINE

The Huskies have the potential to score a ton of points if they're able to find a reliable quarterback. After the season opener against Presbyterian, NIU plays its next three games at Northwestern, UNLV and Arkansas, which means all the kinks should be ironed out by the time the MAC season rolls around.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Drew Hare (6-1, 200, So.)
RB Cameron Stingily (6-1, 244, Sr.)
LT Ryan Brown (6-6, 283, Sr.)
LG Scott Taylor (6-2, 295, So.)
C Andrew Ness (6-3, 286, Jr.)
RG Aidan Conlon (6-3, 287, Jr.)
RT Tyler Loos (6-5, 282, Sr.)
TE Luke Eakes (6-3, 250, Sr.)
WR Tommylee Lewis (5-7, 155, Sr.)
WR Da'Ron Brown (6-0, 194, Sr.)
WR Juwan Brescacin (5-10, 189, Jr.)

Defense

DE Jason Meehan (6-1, 241, Sr.)
DT Donovan Gordon (6-0, 275, Sr.)
DT Mario Jones (6-0, 275, So.)
DE Perez Ford (6-0, 223, Jr.)
OLB Jamaal Bass (5-10, 225, Sr.)
MLB Boomer Mays (6-0, 230, Jr.)
OLB Michael Santacaterina (5-10, 210, Sr.)
CB Paris Logan (5-9, 179, Jr.)
CB Marlon Moore (5-9, 180, Jr.)
FS Dechane Durante (6-2, 196, Sr.)
SS Mycial Allen (5-11, 183, So.)

Specialists

K Tyler Wedel (5-11, 186, Sr.)
P Tyler Wedel (5-11, 186, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1 **Shane Evans,** OL ★★★
2 **Deion Hallmon,** CB ★★★
3 **Landon Root,** QB ★★★

The Huskies beat out Toledo for the 6-5, 290-pound Evans, an in-state product from Crystal Lake who should develop into a solid MAC player. Don't be surprised to see Hallmon in the rotation at cornerback this season, if not in the starting lineup. The 6-0, 175-pounder from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was recruited by the likes of Nebraska, Syracuse and Temple. The potential replacements for graduated Jordan Lynch all struggled in the spring, which could open the door for the 6-3, 195-pound Root, a dual-threat quarterback from Wichita, Kan., who has a strong arm.

BASS: CHRIS ANDERSON / ICON SMI

2 TOLEDO ROCKETS

Toledo should enjoy these days while they last, as coach Matt Campbell might be headed for bigger things if the Rockets make another run at a 10-win season, as expected. Despite the loss of quarterback Terrance Owens and tailback David Fluellen, Toledo has the weapons needed to battle Northern Illinois and Ball State in the top-heavy West Division. The Rockets return six All-MAC players, including first-team all-league senior linebacker Junior Sylvestre, who leads a defense that returns five of its top six tacklers. The offense returns four starters on the line, while Jeremiah Detmer is a likely Lou Groza Award candidate.

Campbell lists three players as the top quarterback heading into training camp: sophomore Logan Woodside, Alabama junior transfer Phillip Ely and redshirt freshman Michael Julian. The top candidate to replace Fluellen is sophomore Kareem Hunt, who rushed for 866 yards and six touchdowns last season. He stepped in when Fluellen was injured, rushing for more than 100 yards in five of Toledo's final six games.

The passing game will revolve around two-time All-MAC wide receiver Alonzo Russell, who has 115 receptions for 11 touchdowns over the past two seasons.

The Rockets' defense, which ranked 88th in the nation last year, can't continue its benevolent ways. Toledo, in fact, has been subpar defensively for nearly a decade. New coordinator Jon Heacock will still use four down linemen and substitute into packages, highlighting hybrid linebackers and backs.

There's a lot to like about the linebackers. Sylvestre, Trent Voss and Chase Murdock form a formidable trio in the middle of the field.

BOTTOM LINE: Whether the Rockets can develop into a MAC contender depends on their ability to fill voids while last season's contributors step into expanded roles.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	New Hampshire	
S.6	Missouri	23-38
S.12	@ CINCINNATI	
S.20	Ball State	24-31
S.27	Central Michigan	38-17
O.4	@ WESTERN MICHIGAN	47-20
O.11	@ IOWA STATE	
O.25	Massachusetts	
N.4	@ KENT STATE	
N.11	@ NORTHERN ILLINOIS	17-35
N.19	Bowling Green	28-25
N.28	@ EASTERN MICHIGAN	55-16

COACH
Matt Campbell
Third year (17-9)
Career record: 17-9

Offensive coordinator: Jason Candle (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Jon Heacock (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 7-5
Stadium: Glass Bowl (26,248)
Tickets: 419-530-GOLD
Site: Toledo, Ohio
Website: utrockets.com
Twitter: @toledorockets

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Logan Woodside (6-2, 210, So.)
RB Kareem Hunt (5-11, 200, So.)
FB Zac Rosenbauer (6-2, 255, Sr.)
LT Josh Hendershot (6-4, 285, Sr.)
LG Jeff Myers (6-3, 290, So.)
C Robert Lisowski (6-4, 292, Sr.)
RG Greg Mancz (6-5, 295, Sr.)
RT Chase Nelson (6-8, 335, Sr.)
WR Alonzo Russell (6-4, 190, Jr.)
WR Dwight Macon (6-0, 200, Sr.)
WR Justin Olack (6-4, 210, Sr.)

Defense
DE Allen Covington (6-2, 272, Jr.)
DT Treyvon Hester (6-3, 290, So.)
DT Elijah Jones (6-2, 305, Sr.)
DE John Stepec (6-3, 245, So.)
OLB Junior Sylvestre (6-0, 210, Sr.)
MLB Chase Murdock (6-0, 215, Jr.)
OLB Trent Voss (6-3, 210, Jr.)
CB Cheatham Norrils (6-0, 195, Sr.)
CB Cameron Cole (6-0, 190, Sr.)
FS Chaz Whittaker (6-2, 180, Jr.)
SS DeJuan Rogers (6-1, 175, So.)

Specialists
K Jeremiah Detmer (5-8, 170, Sr.)
P Jeremiah Detmer (5-8, 170, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

3 BALL STATE CARDINALS

This season marks Ball State's first slight rebuilding project under fourth-year coach Pete Lembo. In terms of talent, the Cardinals' roster is among the finest in the MAC. A lack of experience is disconcerting, so the team could be in for a marginally frustrating season. The future, nevertheless, is glaringly bright, with potential future all-league picks on both sides of the ball.

The Cardinals won't come close to a freefall but it will be difficult to challenge for another 10-win season. Who plays quarterback is anyone's guess. Ozzie Mann looked strong through much of the spring but will be challenged by Jack Milas and Kyle Kamman. Ball State will be able to line up Mann behind an experienced offensive line led by center Jacob Richard.

Given Mann's inexperience, the Cardinals can't rely heavily on his passing and will call upon senior running back Jahwan Edwards, who rushed for 1,110 yards last year to become only the fourth player in Ball State history with two 1,000-yard rushing seasons.

The receiving corps led by Jordan Williams will help move the ball effectively. So will the addition of KeVonn Mabon, who returns after an injury-plagued season.

New defensive coordinator Kevin Kelly comes over from Georgetown with what he calls a "spread" defense. Kelly will employ different variations, with 4-3, 3-4 and 4-2-5 alignments all being mixed in. But Kelly insists the concept won't be complicated for the defense that returns six starters and is led by junior linebacker Ben Ingle, a second-team All-MAC pick. Both tackles are gone in Nathan Ollie and Joel Cox, but end Jonathan Newsome returns. Both cornerback positions are up for grabs, but safeties Dae'Shaun Hurley and Brian Jones bring experience to the secondary.

BOTTOM LINE: Led by the running of Edwards, there's still a lot of offensive talent here to score points in bunches.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Colgate	
S.6	@ IOWA	
S.13	Indiana State	
S.20	@ TOLEDO	31-24
O.4	@ ARMY	40-14
O.11	Western Michigan	38-17
O.18	@ CENTRAL MICHIGAN	44-24
O.25	Akron	42-24
N.5	Northern Illinois	27-48
N.12	@ MASSACHUSETTS	
N.22	Eastern Michigan	51-20
N.28	@ BOWLING GREEN	

COACH
Pete Lembo
Fourth year (25-13)
Career record: 104-49

Offensive coordinator: Joey Lynch (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Kevin Kelly (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 10-3
(Lost to Arkansas State in the GoDaddy Bowl, 23-20)
Stadium: Scheumann Stadium (22,500)
Tickets: 888-BSU-TICKET
Site: Muncie, Ind.
Website: ballstatesports.com
Twitter: @BSUCardsFB

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Ozzie Mann (6-1, 230, So.)
RB Jahwan Edwards (5-10, 225, Sr.)
LT Steven Bell (6-4, 290, So.)
LG P.J. Scott (6-2, 293, Sr.)
C Jacob Richard (6-1, 275, Jr.)
RG Jalen Schlachter (6-6, 316, Jr.)
RT Drake Miller (6-5, 296, So.)
TE Sam Brunner (6-2, 246, So.)
WR Jordan Williams (6-2, 216, Jr.)
WR KeVonn Mabon (6-3, 208, Jr.)
WR Chris Shillings (6-1, 206, Sr.)

Defense
DE Jonathan Newsome (6-3, 236, Sr.)
DT Darnell Smith (5-11, 275, Jr.)
DT Carlutorbantu Zaramo (6-4, 304, So.)
DE Nick Miles (6-2, 265, Sr.)
OLB Ben Ingle (6-0, 230, Jr.)
MLB Zack Ryan (5-10, 224, So.)
OLB Aaron Taylor (5-11, 206, So.)
CB Tyree Holder (5-11, 166, So.)
CB Quintin Cooper (5-7, 184, Sr.)
FS Dae'Shaun Hurley (6-0, 198, So.)
SS Brian Jones (5-10, 195, Sr.)

Specialists
K Scott Secor (5-8, 166, Sr.)
P Kyle Schmidt (6-2, 228, So.)

Sporting News All-American

4 CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS

There was a small dip in Mt. Pleasant as Dan Enos's program went from 7-6 and an appearance in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl in 2012 to 6-6 in 2013. A lot of the fallout came from a defense that yielded 43 points a game in the six losses. If the Chippewas are to get back on track this season, those numbers must decrease significantly.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A.28	Chattanooga
S.6	@ PURDUE
S.13	Syracuse
S.20	@ KANSAS
S.27	@ TOLEDO
O.4	Ohio
O.11	@ NORTHERN ILLINOIS
O.18	Ball State
O.25	@ BUFFALO
N.1	@ EASTERN MICHIGAN
N.15	Miami (OH)
N.22	Western Michigan

The Chippewas' defense has experience up front with tackle Leterrius Walton, a senior who tied for second on the team with 9.5 tackles for loss last year, along with Jabari Dean. A sophomore, Dean started two years ago as a freshman, but sat out 2013 with an injury. Justin Cherocci, the Chippewas' top tackler in each of the past two seasons, will lead the linebackers, but the secondary must replace Avery Cunningham, who started the final 43 consecutive games of his career.

If the Chippewas get any pressure off the edges, the secondary is good enough to play man coverage thanks to returning safety Kavon Frazier and corners Jason Wilson and Brandon Greer.

The Chippewas have possession of one of the premier weapons in the league in wideout Titus Davis, who caught 61 passes for 1,109 yards and eight touchdowns in 2013. Enos probably won't name a quarterback before the season opener. Senior quarterback Cody Kater, who missed almost all of last season with a collarbone injury, has a slight edge, however.

QUICK HITS

2013 RECORD: 6-6

Coach: Dan Enos (fifth year, 19-30)
Career record: 19-30
Offensive coordinator: Morris Watts (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Joe Tumpkin (fifth year)

Stadium: Kelly/Shorts Stadium (30,255)
Tickets: 888-FIRE-UP2
Site: Mount Pleasant, Mich.
Online: cmuchippewas.com
Twitter: @CMU_Football

5 WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS

So what if P.J. Fleck's coaching debut wasn't much to write home about? Sometimes you have to take a step backward–an 11-loss season certainly qualifies as such–to move forward. While the Broncos won't make much noise in 2014 either, MAC observers took note of Fleck's first full recruiting class that, at least on paper, significantly elevated the level of Western Michigan's potential.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A.30	@ PURDUE
S.13	@ IDAHO
S.20	Murray State
S.27	@ VIRGINIA TECH
O.4	Toledo
O.11	@ BALL STATE
O.18	@ BOWLING GREEN
O.25	Ohio
N.1	@ MIAMI (OH)
N.15	Eastern Michigan
N.22	@ CENTRAL MICHIGAN
N.28	Northern Illinois

Some say the 24-man haul could be the best recruiting class in league history but the Broncos aren't taking an "out with the old, in with the new" approach to this season. Wideout Corey Davis is coming off a sensational season and despite the loss of Jaime Wilson, who sat out last year with a broken ankle and has since left the program, Western Michigan should be deep at receiver. True freshman Lonnie Johnson, for one, is a potential star.

Linebacker Trevor Ishmael is vastly improved and another linebacker, Devon Brant, showed in the spring that the ACL injury that sidelined him last year is in the past. The Broncos were set to return four starters on the offensive line from last year's team, although guard Jimmy Kristof and right tackle Taylor Moton are the only locks.

Sophomore Zach Terrell is the starting quarterback heading into training camp but he'll be challenged by true freshman Chance Stewart, who has been anointed as the Broncos' quarterback of the future.

QUICK HITS

2013 RECORD: 1-11

Coach: P.J. Fleck (second year, 1-11)
Career record: 1-11
Offensive coordinator: Kirk Ciarrocca (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Ed Pinkham (second year)

Stadium: Waldo Stadium (30,200)
Tickets: 888-4-WMU-TIX
Site: Kalamazoo, Mich.
Online: wmubroncos.com
Twitter: @WMU_Football

6 EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES

While Michigan's annual goal is to win the Big Ten, nearby Eastern Michigan is seemingly frozen in rebuilding mode. Last year marked the 18th consecutive year without a winning season and, as such, it was the final one for Ron English, the only coach during that span to post a .500 record for any season (2011).

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A.30	Morgan State
S.6	@ FLORIDA
S.13	@ OLD DOMINION
S.20	@ MICHIGAN STATE
O.4	@ AKRON
O.11	Buffalo
O.18	@ MASSACHUSETTS*
O.25	Northern Illinois
N.1	Central Michigan
N.15	@ WESTERN MICHIGAN
N.22	@ BALL STATE
N.28	Toledo

* At Foxboro, MA

Next in line to try and reverse the losing trend is Chris Creighton, who in six seasons at Drake compiled a .667 winning percentage. Instead of hiring a top assistant from the Big Ten, Eastern Michigan nabbed a sitting head coach who hasn't had a losing campaign in 17 years.

Thirteen starters return, including three All-MAC selections: tight end Tyreese Russell, right tackle Lincoln Hansen and tailback Bronson Hill.

Russell led the team in receptions with 44 for 594 yards and three touchdowns. Hansen started all 12 games and was the lead convoy for Hill, who ranked 31st nationally in rushing and surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for the first time in his career.

Sophomore quarterback Brogan Roback returns after starting four games as true freshman.

Defensive tackle Pat Connor is an underrated run-stuffer who registered four sacks and 44 tackles in '13.

Even though Creighton is basically starting from scratch, doubling the Eagles' win total isn't out of the question.

QUICK HITS

2013 RECORD: 2-10

Coach: Chris Creighton (first year)
Career record: 139-46
Offensive coordinator: Kalen DeBoer (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Brad McCaslin (first year)

Stadium: Rynearson Stadium (30,200)
Tickets: 734-487-2282
Site: Ypsilanti, Mich.
Online: emueagles.com
Twitter: @EMUFB

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SN YEARBOOKS

PROJECTED FINISH

WEST

1. **NEVADA** — Bowl Projection: New Mexico Bowl
2. **FRESNO STATE** — Bowl Projection: Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
3. **SAN DIEGO STATE**
4. **UNLV**
5. **SAN JOSE STATE**
6. **HAWAII**

MOUNTAIN

1. **BOISE STATE** — Bowl Projection: Las Vegas Bowl
2. **UTAH STATE** — Bowl Projection: Poinsettia Bowl
3. **COLORADO STATE** — Bowl Projection: New Orleans Bowl
4. **WYOMING**
5. **AIR FORCE**
6. **NEW MEXICO**

Jay Ajayi

Sans Petersen, beat goes on for Boise in a balanced MWC

BY STEVE CARP | *Las Vegas Review-Journal*

All in all, things worked out pretty well for the Mountain West in 2013. The conference's move to split divisions provided some exciting football and some outstanding individual play.

It also was a deviation from the norm. Boise State did not dominate as in the past. UNLV did not bring up the rear as it has for so many years. Utah State and San Jose State handled the move from the Western Athletic Conference well, particularly the Aggies, who won the Mountain Division and made it to the MW title game.

But that was then and this is now. With every new year comes change and nowhere is there bigger change than in Boise where longtime head coach Chris Petersen finally decided to take someone up on their offer to leave the blue Smurf Turf. Petersen accepted the job at Washington after Steve Sarkisian left the Huskies to coach USC. Bryan Harsin, who had been Petersen's offensive coordinator from 2006-10, is now in charge of Boise State and he'll be looking to get the Broncos back to the top of the Mountain Division.

Wyoming is also under new direction. Craig Bohl, who led North Dakota State to three straight FCS national titles, will try to replicate that success in Laramie after Dave Christensen went 27-34 in five years.

In the West Division, Fresno State and San Jose State have to replace their high-powered quarterbacks as Derek Carr and David Fales, respectively, have graduated. UNLV—who is ineligible for postseason play due to an inadequate APR score—has to find a replacement for Tim Cornett, the school's all-time leading rusher. And San Diego State will also have to find a featured running back after Adam Muema decided not to return for his senior season.

The races could be very interesting. Neither division has a dominant team and it could help New Mexico in the Mountain Division and Nevada in the West Division move up. It will likely come down to which programs can fill the major voids the quickest and who has the most depth to sustain itself if and when injuries occur.

TRENDING

Three stories to watch

1 **Receiver revival:** Last year, it was all about the QBs, led by Fresno State's Derek Carr. This year, the wide receivers will be the talk of the league with UNLV's Devante Davis and Fresno State's Josh Harper leading the way.

RECRUITING RANKINGS

by JC Shurburtt, 247Sports

247 COMPOSITE

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL PLAYERS	★★★★★ 5-STAR RECRUITS	★★★★ 4-STAR RECRUITS	★★★ 3-STAR RECRUITS	POINTS
1	Boise State	20	0	1	14	158.36
2	San Diego State	26	0	0	13	148.06
3	Fresno State	24	0	0	7	126.85
4	San Jose State	20	0	0	8	124.04
5	Colorado State	25	0	0	5	123.25
6	Nevada	27	0	0	7	121.51
7	New Mexico	25	0	0	6	107.10
8	Hawaii	24	0	0	5	101.06
9	Air Force	25	0	0	3	97.93
10	Utah State	28	0	0	4	97.71
11	Wyoming	22	0	0	1	82.31
12	UNLV	18	0	0	2	81.84

ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST

Offense

QB **Garrett Grayson,** Sr., Colorado State
RB **Jay Ajayi,** Jr., Boise State
RB **Shaun Wick,** Jr. Wyoming
OL **Brett Boyko,** Sr., UNLV
OL **Terry Poole,** Sr., San Diego State
OL **Ty Sambrailo,** Sr., Colorado State
OL **Ben Clarke,** Jr., Hawaii
OL **LaMar Bratton,** Sr., New Mexico
TE **Billy Freeman,** So., San Jose State
WR **Josh Harper,** Sr., Fresno State
WR **Devante Davis,** Sr., UNLV

Defense

DL **Brock Hekking,** Sr., Nevada
DL **B.J. Larsen,** Sr., Utah State
DL **Tyeler Davison,** Sr., Fresno State
DL **Eddie Yarbrough,** Jr., Wyoming
LB **Zach Vigil,** Sr., Utah State
LB **Ejiro Ederaine,** Jr., Fresno State
LB **Max Morgan,** Sr., Colorado State
DB **Donte Deayon,** Jr., Boise State
DB **J.J. Whittaker,** Sr., San Diego State
DB **Derron Smith,** Sr., Fresno State
DB **Jeremy Ioane,** Sr., Boise State

Specialists

K **Austin Lopez,** Jr., San Jose State
P **Hayden Hunt,** So., Colorado State

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

He scored 18 touchdowns as a sophomore and was eighth in the nation in rushing TDs. He is tough to bring down and can be a threat catching the ball out of the backfield as well.

Garrett Grayson

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The Wolf Pack defensive end terrorized quarterbacks and runners last season, with 14.5 tackles for loss and nine sacks. He's exceptionally strong and quick and covers a lot of ground.

ASCENDING

COLORADO STATE

The Rams weren't supposed to be a factor in Jim McElwain's second year, but an 8-6 season capped by a big win over Washington State in the New Mexico Bowl has them ahead of schedule.

DESCENDING

SAN JOSE STATE

All-everthing quarterback David Fales has graduated and second-year coach Ron Caragher's team will be competing in a tougher division than last season.

2 Bowled over: The Mountain West managed to get half its teams into bowl games last year, going 3-3. The hope is for a repeat in number of invitations and another win or two.

3 Takin' it to the house: For three straight years, a Mountain West team has had three kickoffs returned for touchdowns. Last year, it was New Mexico's Carlos Wiggins who did the honors.

RATING THE MOUNTAIN WEST

FASTEST RECEIVER
Carlos Wiggins, WR, New Mexico
He's 5-8 and is like trying to tackle mercury.

BEST HANDS
Devante Davis, WR, UNLV
He saw a lot of double-teaming but he still caught virtually everything thrown his way and scored 14 touchdowns.

BEST PASSING QB
Garrett Grayson, Colorado State
Threw for 3,696 yards in 2014; is Rams' 10th all-time passer.

BEST RUNNING QB
Chuckie Keeton, Utah State
Assuming his surgically repaired knee has him back to 100 percent, he is a tough target for defenses to contain.

MOST ELUSIVE RB
Crusoe Gongbay, New Mexico
He's only 5-11 but he's got the speed to turn the corner and also get up inside and break into the second tier of a defense.

BEST INSTINCTS
Cody Fajardo, QB, Nevada
Has learned when to sit in the pocket and when to get out of harm's way. He's able to extend plays with his legs and his arm.

BEST ATHLETE
Carlos Wiggins, WR, New Mexico
Speed, quickness, strength—he's got it all.

PLAYER MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (OFF THE FIELD)
Michael Husar, C, Air Force
It's said centers are the smartest guys on field and Husar, a biology major with a 3.27 GPA, plans to go to medical school and be a flight surgeon.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Darell Garretson, QB, Utah State
When Chuckie Keeton went down with a knee injury, he stepped in as a true frosh and led Aggies to a division title.

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Derron Smith, FS, Fresno State
He's tops at his position on several draft boards thanks to his instincts and ability to get the ball.

TOP IMPACT FROSH
Chase Blakley, TE, Boise State
Boise needs to replace Gabe Linehan and the 6-4 in-state product has a chance to step in immediately and play.

HARDEST HITTER
Zach Vigil, LB, Utah State
Can sack the quarterback, cover running backs out of the backfield and will lower the boom on receivers.

BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER
Christian Spears, FS, Air Force
He's not the fastest guy or the biggest hitter but he's a playmaker and gets the most out of his 5-9, 185-pound frame.

BEST INTERVIEW
Rocky Long, head coach, San Diego State
Long may not like to punt and can't find a kicker, but he will happily share his thoughts on the strange things he does.

BEST COACH AS STRATEGIST
Jim McElwain, Colorado State
He made good use of his running game while allowing quarterback Garrett Grayson to develop.

BEST COACH AS RECRUITER
Matt Wells, Utah State
Winning is a great selling point and the Aggies have been consistent winners the last couple of years.

HOTTEST SEAT
Norm Chow, Hawaii
He is 4-20 and has yet to deliver what he promised.

BEST VENUE
Romney Stadium, Utah State
It's not easy to get there but with the mountains ringing the Cache Valley, it's a beautiful setting and worth the drive.

AJAYI: OTTO KITSINGER / AP; GRAYSON: MATT YORK / AP

NEVADA WOLF PACK

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

MOUNTAIN WEST WEST

1

TM

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Southern Utah	
S.5	Washington State	
S.13	@ ARIZONA	
S.27	@ SAN JOSE STATE	38-16
O.4	Boise State	17-34
O.11	Colorado State	17-38
O.18	@ BYU	23-28
O.25	@ HAWAII	31-9
N.1	San Diego State	44-51
N.15	@ AIR FORCE	45-42
N.22	Fresno State	23-41
N.29	@ UNLV	22-27

COACH

Brian Polian

Second year (4-8)

Career record: 4-8

Offensive coordinator: Nick Rolovich (third year)

Defensive coordinator: Scottie Hazelton (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 4-8

Stadium: Mackay Stadium (30,000)

Tickets: 775-348-PACK

Site: Reno, Nev.

Website: nevadawolfpack.com

Twitter: @NevadaWolfPack

Cody Fajardo

It's never easy to replace a legend and Brian Polian found that out taking over for longtime coach and Hall of Famer Chris Ault. The Wolf Pack struggled to find continuity on the field and adjust to Polian's high-energy, high-volume style of coaching, finishing 4-8 overall, 3-5 in Mountain West play, losing to archrival UNLV and missing the postseason.

But year two of the Polian regime appears to be bright. Nevada has one of the best quarterbacks in the league in senior Cody Fajardo to build around on offense and defensive end Brock Hekking on defense. There are seven offensive starters returning and nine starters back on defense, so look for that experience to pay off for the Wolf Pack in its attempt to get things back on track.

Fajardo, a 67.8 percent career passer, has amassed 9,597 yards of total offense in three seasons at Nevada. He is the person opposing defenses must stop.

The Wolf Pack has an experienced offensive line to protect Fajardo with seniors Matt Galas and Kyle Roberts. The receiving corps, led by Richy Turner and Hasaan Henderson, is solid.

As the offense runs through Fajardo, the defense runs through Hekking. He gets great pressure on the quarterback by using his speed and strength and he has 17 career sacks. Hekking will have help from fellow defensive linemen Rykeem Yates, Lenny Jones and Jordan Hanson, all starters in 2013. Nevada also has a strong, experienced linebacking corps headed by senior Jonathan McNeal and junior Jordan Dobrich. Bryan Lane, who bounced between safety and linebacker last year, will play strictly at outside linebacker this season and he looked impressive at the position in spring drills.

The secondary has traditionally been a question mark. But senior cornerback Charles Garrett is a good cover guy and makes plays on a consistent basis.

Difference-maker

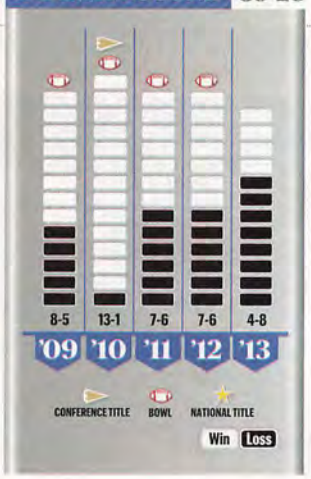
Cody Fajardo, QB

An early-season knee injury caused Fajardo to miss Nevada's third and fourth games last season. He returned with 389 passing yards against Air Force and 393 yards vs. San Diego State. Fajardo averaged 283 yards passing over the last eight games, a brutal 2-6 stretch in which the Wolf Pack defense allowed an avaerage of 36.5 points per game.

BOTTOM LINE

As long as Fajardo stays healthy and his receivers hang onto the ball, Nevada will score points and have a chance to win some close ones. They should prevail often enough to produce a winning record, challenge Fresno State and San Diego State for the West Division title and go back to a bowl game.

5-YEAR RECORD 39-26



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Cody Fajardo (6-2, 215, Sr.)
RB	Kendall Brock (5-9, 195, Sr.)
RB	Don Jackson (5-10, 210, Jr.)
LT	Jeremy Macauley (6-1, 305, So.)
LG	Kyle Roberts (6-6, 305, Sr.)
C	Matt Galas (6-1, 280, Sr.)
RG	Connor Talbott (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RT	Humberto Lopez (6-5, 305, Jr.)
TE	Jarred Gipson (6-1, 240, So.)
WR	Richy Turner (5-11, 180, Sr.)
WR	Hasaan Henderson (6-5, 230, So.)

Defense

DE	Brock Hekking (6-4, 255, Sr.)
DT	Jordan Hanson (6-2, 280, Sr.)
DT	Rykeem Yates (6-2, 270, Jr.)
DE	Lenny Jones (6-3, 255, Jr.)
OLB	Jordan Dobrich (6-2, 235, Jr.)
MLB	Jonathan McNeal (6-1, 235, Sr.)
OLB	Bryan Lane (6-4, 210, Jr.)
CB	Charles Garrett (5-11, 205, Sr.)
CB	Evan Favors (6-0, 185, Sr.)
SS	Nigel Haikins (5-10, 210, Sr.)
FS	Duran Workman (6-0, 200, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Brent Zuzo (5-10, 175, So.)
P	Alex Boy (6-3, 195, So.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

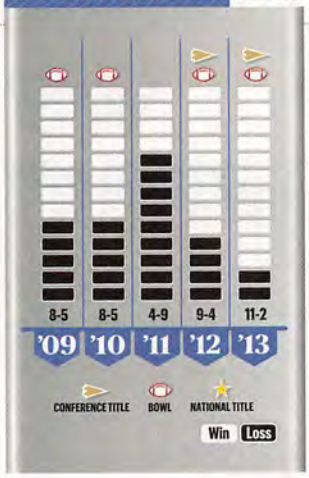
1. **Patrick Choudja,** DE ★★★
2. **Korey Rush,** DE ★★★
3. **Hunter Fralick,** QB ★★★

The Wolf Pack inked 15 prospects from talent-rich California, including Choudja, who many consider to be a steal out of the northern part of the state. Running back James Butler (Wheaton, Ill./St. Francis) is a player to watch moving forward. He has good feet and a compact build and was productive against rugged Illinois competition. Choudja and Rush led what is one of the better classes of defensive linemen in the Mountain West; in all, Nevada signed seven of them. Fralick has a chance to be the starting quarterback someday and was one of the best high school players in Nevada last year.

FAJARDO: CHRIS CARLSON / AP

FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS

5-YEAR RECORD 40-25



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Brian Burrell (6-4, 219, Jr.)
RB Marteze Waller (5-11, 214, Jr.)
LT Alex Fifita (6-4, 307, Jr.)
LG David Patterson (6-4, 289, Fr.)
C Bo Bonnheim (6-2, 295, Jr.)
RG Cody Wichmann (6-6, 311, Sr.)
RT Justin Northern (6-5, 285, Jr.)
TE Riley Barnes (6-3, 261, Sr.)
WR Josh Harper (6-1, 184, Sr.)
WR Aaron Peck (6-3, 211, Jr.)
WR Da'Mari Scott (6-0, 199, So.)

Defense

DE Maurice Poyadue (6-3, 280, Jr.)
NG Tyeler Davison (6-2, 304, Sr.)
DE Todd Hunt (6-3, 261, Jr.)
OLB Ejiro Ederaine (6-3, 220, Jr.)
ILB Karl Mickelsen (6-0, 229, Sr.)
ILB Kyrie Wilson (6-2, 228, Jr.)
OLB Donavon Lewis (6-2, 239, Sr.)
CB Jamal Ellis (5-11, 170, So.)
CB Curtis Riley (6-0, 190, Sr.)
SS Charles Washington (5-11, 200, Jr.)
FS Derron Smith (5-11, 200, Sr.)

Specialists

K Colin McGuire (5-10, 183, So.)
P Garrett Swanson (6-0, 213, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1 ▸ **Michael Lazarus,** LB ★★★
2 ▸ **Kurt Scoby,** RB ★★★
3 ▸ **Xavier Ulutu,** LB ★★★

Lazarus and Scoby were heavily recruited and some analysts ranked both as high as four stars, so they were very resourceful signings for the Bulldogs. Quarterback Kilton Anderson hails from the same program that produced current USC quarterback Max Browne and former BYU and Kansas signal-caller Jake Heaps—so he is one to watch. Fresno State dipped into Texas to land three players, including Houston-area linebacker Tobenna Okeke, who has a good frame and athleticism. Five offensive linemen are part of the class and that's always a positive building block for the future. You won't hear about them for a couple of years.

Derron Smith

SMITH: DAVID CLEVELAND / AP

It's not enough the Bulldogs have to replace Derek Carr, one of the best passers in school history. They also have to find someone to take the spot of Davante Adams, their star wide receiver, who decided to go pro after his sophomore year.

But coach Tim DeRuyter isn't writing off 2014. He has been able to build some depth throughout the roster and while replacing Carr is a dubious task, there's a great opportunity for someone to step up and claim the job. It could be redshirt freshman Zack Greenlee. Or it could be junior Brian Burrell. Or maybe sophomore Myles Carr (no relation) wins the job.

Whoever gets it will have a lot of weapons at his disposal. While Adams is gone, as is fellow receiver Isaiah Burse, Josh Harper is back at wide receiver and the 6-1 senior had 13 touchdown receptions last year. Running backs Marteze Waller and Malique Micenheimer will give Fresno State enough of a ground game so teams can't just load up against the pass. And there's enough experience on the offensive line between Bo Bonnheim, Justin Northern and Cody Wichmann to provide adequate protection for the quarterback and open up holes for the running backs. Fresno State allowed just 11 sacks in 2013 while attempting 675 passes, a remarkable ratio.

Defensively, the Bulldogs have a projected future NFLer in free safety Derron Smith. Though only 5-11 and 200 pounds, the senior is physical enough to cover larger players. And with nose guard Tyeler Davison getting pressure up front on opposing quarterbacks, there's enough balance for linebackers Karl Mickelsen, Ejiro Ederaine, Donavon Lewis and Kyrie Wilson to help control the line of scrimmage or drop back and assist in coverage.

Difference-maker

Derron Smith, FS

Smith flirted seriously with the idea of going pro last winter after putting together a masterful 2013 season. He picked off quarterbacks seven times for 135 yards and a touchdown. He backed that flash up with some smash, recording 87 tackles to go along with eight tackles for loss and four sacks.

BOTTOM LINE

The Bulldogs will survive the loss of Carr and Adams and they'll contend for a third straight Mountain West title because they simply don't lose at home. DeRuyter is 13-0 at Bulldog Stadium since taking over two years ago. A return to the Las Vegas Bowl is certainly not out of the question.

2 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

MOUNTAIN WEST WEST

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ USC	20-45
S.6	@ UTAH	
S.13	Nebraska	
S.20	Southern Utah	
S.26	@ NEW MEXICO	69-28
O.3	San Diego State	35-28
O.11	@ UNLV	38-14
O.17	@ BOISE STATE	41-40
N.1	Wyoming	48-10
N.8	San Jose State	52-62
N.22	@ NEVADA	41-23
N.29	Hawaii	42-37

COACH

Tim DeRuyter
Third year (20-6)
Career record: 21-6

Offensive coordinator: Dave Schramm (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Nick Toth (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 11-2
(Lost to USC in the Las Vegas Bowl, 45-20)
Stadium: Bulldog Stadium (41,031)
Tickets: 559-278-DOGS
Site: Fresno, Calif.
Website: gobulldogs.com
Twitter: @FSAthletics

3 SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS

It was an interesting 2013 season for the Aztecs, who finished second in the West Division, went 8-5 overall, won the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl and did it with a walk-on quarterback and no dependable kicking game.

But there's no question mark at quarterback now as senior Quinn Kaehler is the man. After coming on for the injured Adam Dingwell, Kaehler, who walked on at San Diego State, threw for 3,007 yards and 19 touchdowns, establishing himself as the starter.

The Aztecs do need to find a reliable running back after Adam Muema opted to leave the team with one year of eligibility remaining. Sophomore Donnel Pumphrey rushed for 752 yards and eight TDs and averaged six yards a carry, so he could be the answer. But Kaehler has good targets to throw to, primarily wideout Ezell Ruffin, who had a team-leading 68 receptions last season and averaged 16.7 yards per catch.

Defensively, the Aztecs are experienced, athletic and fly to the ball. Seven seniors are expected to start including linemen Cody Galea, Sam Meredith and Dontrell Onuoha. The linebacking corps of seniors Derek Largent, Jake Fely and Josh Gavert is a proven unit. Gavert tied for second on the team with three sacks last year.

Senior cornerback J.J. Whittaker had three interceptions and will be the leader of a young secondary that starts four sophomores. But they are a talented group and they will have the benefit of an experienced front six to get pressure on the opposing quarterback.

There's a new kicker in Seamus McMorrow which is a good thing given SDSU was eight of 16 on field goal tries last season including having four kicks blocked. It won't take much to gain improvement in that area.

BOTTOM LINE: The league slate is challenging, but if the Aztecs can get a win at Fresno State, Nevada or Boise State, they could be in the MWC title game in December.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Northern Arizona	
S.6	@ NORTH CAROLINA	
S.20	@ OREGON STATE	30-34
S.27	UNLV	19-45
O.3	@ FRESNO STATE	28-35
O.10	@ NEW MEXICO	35-30
O.18	Hawaii	28-21
N.1	@ NEVADA	51-44
N.8	Idaho	
N.15	@ BOISE STATE	34-31
N.21	Air Force	27-20
N.29	San Jose State	34-30

COACH

Rocky Long
Fourth year (25-14)
Career record: 90-83

Offensive coordinator: Bob Toledo (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Rocky Long

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Beat Buffalo in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, 49-24)
Stadium: Qualcomm Stadium (70,561)
Tickets: 877-737-8039
Site: San Diego
Website: goaztecs.com
Twitter: @GoAztecFootball

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Quinn Kaehler (6-4, 215, Sr.)
RB	Donnel Pumphrey (5-9, 170, So.)
FB	Adam Roberts (6-3, 235, Sr.)
OT	Nico Siragusa (6-5, 325, So.)
OG	Darrell Greene (6-4, 315, Jr.)
C	Jordan Smith (6-5, 285, Jr.)
OG	Terry Poole (6-5, 310, Sr.)
OT	Zach Dilley (6-5, 295, Sr.)
TE	Robert Craighead (6-3, 265, Jr.)
WR	Ezell Ruffin (6-1, 210, Sr.)
WR	Eric Judge (6-1, 190, So.)

Defense

DE	Cody Galea (6-3, 255, Sr.)
NG	Sam Meredith (6-4, 290, Sr.)
DE	Dontrell Onuoha (6-2, 290, Sr.)
OLB	Derek Largent (6-4, 240, Sr.)
MLB	Jake Fely (5-10, 215, Sr.)
OLB	Josh Gavert (6-2, 215, Sr.)
CB	J.J. Whittaker (5-10, 180, Sr.)
CB	Damontae Kazee (5-11, 180, So.)
SS	Malik Smith (6-0, 185, So.)
SS	Brandon Porter (5-11, 195, So.)
FS	Kendrick Mathis (6-0, 195, So.)

Specialists

K	Seamus McMorrow (5-11, 195, Jr.)
P	Joel Alesi (6-0, 235, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

4 UNLV REBELS

Back in September, the Rebels were 0-2 and facing an 0-3 start as Central Michigan had built a 21-0 lead. But Bobby Hauck's team rallied to win, 31-21, and UNLV went on to post a 7-5 regular season record, go to its first bowl game since 2000 and beat in-state rival Nevada in Reno for the first time since 1979.

That got Hauck a contract extension and a raise. It also fueled efforts to build a 60,000-seat on-campus stadium. Then came the bad news in April—UNLV was deficient in its Academic Progress Rate and would be ineligible for a bowl game in 2014.

For Hauck, the key will be keeping his players motivated and the fans interested. He has an improved defense, a veteran offensive line and an outstanding wide receiver in Devante Davis, who had 87 receptions and scored 14 touchdowns. Marcus Sullivan also had a big junior year catching the ball as he had 45 grabs and five TDs.

But Hauck needs a quarterback to get those guys the ball after Caleb Herring graduated. He also needs a feature running back after Tim Cornett graduated as UNLV's career rushing leader with 3,733 yards. He may have his replacements in junior Nick Sherry, who started at quarterback last year only to lose the job to Herring and has looked good in spring practice. Cornett's backup last year, Adonis Smith, was also looking good in spring drills after a disappointing junior season. If those two can raise their game, UNLV should be able to move the ball and score.

Defensively, the Rebels improved as the season went on and there's finally some depth to create competition. Linebacker Tau Lotulelei, who had four tackles for loss, and free safety Peni Vea, who had a team-high 108 tackles, lead the defense.

BOTTOM LINE: Despite no bowl game to shoot for, the Rebels have some great individual players worth watching in Davis and Sullivan.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.29	@ ARIZONA	13-58
S.6	Northern Colorado	
S.12	Northern Illinois	
S.27	@ SAN DIEGO STATE	45-19
O.4	@ SAN JOSE STATE	24-34
O.11	Fresno State	14-38
O.25	@ UTAH STATE	24-28
N.1	New Mexico	56-42
N.8	Air Force	41-21
N.15	@ BYU	
N.22	@ HAWAII	39-37
N.29	Nevada	27-22

COACH

Bobby Hauck
Fifth year (13-38)
Career record: 93-55

Offensive coordinator: Timm Rosenbach (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Tim Hauck (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Lost to North Texas in the Heart of Dallas Bowl, 36-14)
Stadium: Sam Boyd Stadium (36,800)
Tickets: 702-739-FANS
Site: Las Vegas
Website: unlvrebels.com
Twitter: @UNLVAthletics

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Nick Sherry (6-5, 235, Jr.)
RB	Adonis Smith (5-11, 200, Sr.)
LT	Brett Boyko (6-7, 310, Sr.)
LG	Cameron Jefferson (6-6, 300, Sr.)
C	Robert Waterman (6-2, 290, Sr.)
RG	Nick Gstrein (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RT	Andrew Oberg (6-7, 280, Jr.)
TE	Jake Phillips (6-6, 255, Jr.)
WR	Marcus Sullivan (5-9, 195, Sr.)
WR	Devante Davis (6-3, 210, Sr.)
WR	Anthony Williams (5-11, 190, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Sonny Sanitoa (6-3, 260, Jr.)
DT	Asten Koki (6-3, 255, Sr.)
DT	Jeremiah Valoaga (6-5, 245, Jr.)
DE	Jordan Sparkman (6-6, 265, Sr.)
SLB	Tau Lotulelei (6-1, 220, So.)
MLB	Iggy Porchia (6-2, 210, So.)
WLB	Trent Langham (6-2, 210, So.)
CB	Kenneth Penny (5-11, 170, Sr.)
CB	Tajh Hasson (6-1, 195, Sr.)
SS	Sidney Hodge (5-8, 180, Sr.)
FS	Peni Vea (6-1, 200, Jr.)

Specialists

K-P	Logan Yunker (6-2, 200, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

5 SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS

The Spartans were unable to duplicate their magical season of 2012, which saw them go 11-2 and win the Military Bowl. Despite having one of college football's better passers in David Fales, San Jose State dipped to 6-6 and was not invited to a bowl game.

Second-year coach Ron Caragher now has to replace Fales and tweak the offense to accommodate a less prolific passer. Blake Jurich appears to have the inside track over Joe Gray to be the starting quarterback. Jurich, a 6-4 senior, has more experience, though Gray, a 6-2 junior, is more athletic and is able to extend plays with his legs as well as his arm. Whoever gets the job will have a nice target to throw to in 6-3 sophomore tight end Billy Freeman, who averaged 15.8 yards on 27 catches.

The other key for the Spartans is improving a defense that allowed 35.1 points and 459.2 yards per game. Caragher has brought in Greg Robinson to oversee the SJSU defense and his name should be familiar. Robinson worked for Mack Brown at Texas and was with the Denver Broncos during their Super Bowl success in the 1990s. Robinson will install a 4-3 look to try and control the line of scrimmage better and get more pressure on the opposing quarterback. Look for him to turn sophomore linebacker Christian Tago loose after Tago had four sacks and 10.5 tackles for loss as a freshman.

The Spartans have a reliable kicker in Austin Lopez, who is the only player in school history to record consecutive 100-point seasons (105 in both 2012 and 2013). He has good range, hitting 13 of 15 attempts beyond 40 yards in his career.

BOTTOM LINE: Maybe expectations were too high for San Jose State last year and perhaps things have been dialed down a bit with Fales off to the NFL. But unless the defense tightens up and the prevailing quarterback can be consistent, it could be another .500 season with a bowl bid up in the air.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	North Dakota	
S.6	@ AUBURN	
S.20	@ MINNESOTA	24-43
S.27	Nevada	16-38
O.4	UNLV	34-24
O.18	@ WYOMING	51-44
O.25	@ NAVY	52-58
N.1	Colorado State	34-27
N.8	@ FRESNO STATE	62-52
N.15	Hawaii	37-27
N.21	@ UTAH STATE	12-40
N.29	@ SAN DIEGO STATE	30-34

COACH

Ron Caragher
Second year (6-6)
Career record: 50-28

Offensive coordinator: Jimmie Dougherty (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Greg Robinson (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 6-6
Stadium: Spartan Stadium (30,456)
Tickets: 877-SJSU-TIX
Site: San Jose
Website: sjsuspartans.com
Twitter: @SJSUAthletics

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Blake Jurich (6-4, 240, Sr.)
RB	Shane Smith (6-2, 231, So.)
RB	Thomas Tucker (5-10, 175, So.)
LT	Wes Schweitzer (6-5, 275, Jr.)
LG	Jeremiah Kolone (6-3, 290, Fr.)
C	David Peterson (6-5, 297, Sr.)
RG	Keith Bendixen (6-4, 291, Sr.)
RT	Evan Sarver (6-5, 281, So.)
TE	Billy Freeman (6-3, 235, So.)
WR	Tyler Winston (6-2, 185, So.)
WR	Jabari Carr (6-0, 190, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Adrian Blake (6-3, 255, Sr.)
DT	Travis Raciti (6-5, 290, Sr.)
DT	Nate Falo (6-1, 286, Jr.)
DE	Sean Bacon (6-3, 244, Sr.)
SLB	Vince Buhagiar (6-4, 237, Sr.)
MLB	Jared Leaf (6-2, 238, Jr.)
WLB	Christian Tago (6-1, 226, So.)
CB	Jimmy Pruitt (6-0, 194, Jr.)
CB	Dasheon Frierson (5-10, 180, Sr.)
SS	Akeem King (6-3, 214, Sr.)
FS	Forrest Hightower (5-10, 177, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Austin Lopez (6-0, 187, Jr.)
P	Zach Steinberg (6-1, 185, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

6 HAWAII WARRIORS

So far, it has been a rocky road for Norm Chow. He's just 4-20 overall in two years as head coach of the Rainbow Warriors and he knows things need to improve quickly if he wants to remain on the job.

The problem is they don't score enough and they allow too many points. Chow addressed the defense by bringing in Kevin Clune as the new coordinator and Kurt Gouveia as linebackers coach. They have six returning starters to work with and it's likely nobody's job is completely safe. But defensive end Beau Yap, who had 5.5 sacks and 12 tackles for loss last season, won't have to worry about playing time. The defense will start with the 6-2, 260-pound senior.

Offensively, Hawaii returns four starters on the line led by center Ben Clarke. The team needs to find a quarterback and senior Taylor Graham, who had transferred from Ohio State and started the first three games of 2013 before getting injured, likely has the inside track. But another transfer, former Utah State quarterback Jeremy Higgins, will battle for the starting job and sophomore Ikaika Woolsey is in the mix as well.

Whoever gets the job will be handing the ball off to senior tailback Joey Iosefa, who rushed for 590 yards and five touchdowns. And they'll be throwing it to Scott Harding who had 56 catches and averaged 11.3 yards per reception last year.

Harding will be on the field a lot. In addition to being Hawaii's top receiver, he's also the Rainbow Warriors' punter, having averaged 40.2 yards per punt as a junior in 2013. He also returns punts, averaging 8.3 yards per return.

BOTTOM LINE: Hawaii faces an uphill battle to get better. The 13-game schedule includes Washington, Oregon State and Colorado of the Pac-12, a road trip to Rice and Mountain West road games at San Diego State, Colorado State and Fresno State. There are a lot of new faces that Chow is hoping can make an immediate impact.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Washington	
S.6	Oregon State	14-33
S.13	Northern Iowa	
S.20	@ COLORADO	
O.4	@ RICE	
O.11	Wyoming	56-59
O.18	@ SAN DIEGO STATE	21-28
O.25	Nevada	9-31
N.1	Utah State	10-47
N.8	@ COLORADO STATE	28-35
N.15	@ SAN JOSE STATE	27-37
N.22	UNLV	37-39
N.29	@ FRESNO STATE	37-42

COACH

Norm Chow
Third year (4-20)
Career record: 4-20

Offensive coordinator: Norm Chow
Defensive coordinator: Kevin Clune (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 1-11
Stadium: Aloha Stadium (50,000)
Tickets: 808-944-2697
Site: Honolulu
Website: hawaiiathletics.com
Twitter: @HawaiiFootball

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Taylor Graham (6-5, 235, Sr.)
RB	Joey Iosefa (6-0, 245, Sr.)
RB	Steven Lakalaka (5-10, 240, So.)
LT	Sean Shigematsu (6-5, 290, Sr.)
LG	Kody Afusia (6-2, 310, Sr.)
C	Ben Clarke (6-3, 285, Jr.)
RG	Frank Loyd (6-3, 285, Sr.)
RT	Dave Lefotu (6-3, 305, Sr.)
TE	Harold Moleni (6-2, 245, Jr.)
WR	Scott Harding (5-11, 200, Sr.)
WR	Keith Kirkwood (6-3, 210, So.)

Defense

DE	Beau Yap (6-2, 260, Sr.)
NG	Moses Samia (6-1, 300, Sr.)
DE	Kennedy Tulimasealii (6-1, 280, So.)
OLB	Jerrol Garcia-Williams (6-2, 215, Jr.)
ILB	Tevita Lataimua (5-10, 230, Sr.)
ILB	TJ Taimatuia (6-3, 250, Sr.)
OLB	Julian Gener (5-11, 235, Sr.)
CB	Dee Maggitt (5-10, 170, Sr.)
CB	Ne'Quan Phillips (5-9, 185, Jr.)
SS	Trayvon Henderson (6-0, 190, So.)
FS	Marrell Jackson (6-0, 185, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Tyler Hadden (5-11, 180, Sr.)
P	Scott Harding (5-11, 200, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

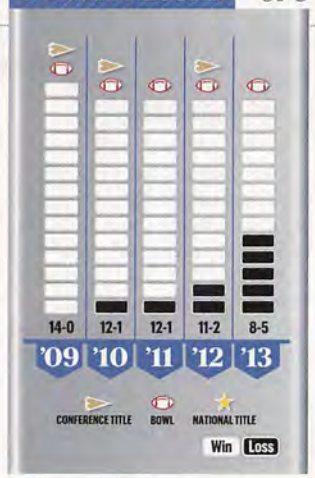
BOISE STATE BRONCOS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH **1**

MOUNTAIN WEST MOUNTAIN

Jay Ajayi

5-YEAR RECORD 57-9



2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Ole Miss*	
S.6	Colorado State	42-30
S.13	@ CONNECTICUT	
S.20	Louisiana	
S.27	@ AIR FORCE	42-20
O.4	@ NEVADA	34-17
O.17	Fresno State	40-41
O.24	BYU	20-37
N.8	@ NEW MEXICO	45-17
N.15	San Diego State	31-34
N.22	@ WYOMING	48-7
N.29	Utah State	34-23

* At Atlanta

COACH
Bryan Harsin
First year
Career record: 7-5

Offensive coordinator: Mike Sanford (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Marcel Yates (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Lost to Oregon State in the Hawaii Bowl, 38-23)
Stadium: Bronco Stadium (36,387)
Tickets: 208-426-4737
Site: Boise, Idaho
Website: broncosports.com
Twitter: @BroncoSportsFB

Chris Petersen finally found an offer he could not refuse and he moved to Seattle to become Washington's head coach. But don't expect sweeping changes under Bryan Harsin. He spent 10 years with the Broncos before becoming the offensive coordinator at Texas, and last year, head coach at Arkansas State, where he went 7-5 and took the Red Wolves to the GoDaddy Bowl.

Offensively, Boise State still wants to run the ball and in Jay Ajayi, it has the perfect person to feature in the backfield. The junior rushed for 1,425 yards and averaged 5.7 yards per carry while scoring 18 touchdowns. They'll also look to throw it as Matt Miller and Shane Williams-Rhodes are experienced targets who know how to get open and make plays after the catch.

Quarterback Grant Hedrick threw for 1,825 yards, 16 TDs and just five interceptions and he'll have a good offensive line in front of him anchored by Marcus Henry–who will slide from right guard to center–and right tackle Rees Odhiambo. He'll be looking to hook up with senior receiver Matt Miller, who had 88 receptions last year and scored 12 touchdowns.

If the Broncos want to return to the top of the Mountain Division, they need to tighten things up defensively. Despite a good pass rush, Boise State allowed 249.2 yards per game through the air and that's too much. Compounding the dilemma, defensive end Demarcus Lawrence, a two-time first-team all-conference performer, decided to go pro.

However, eight starters return for the defense, led by linebacker Ben Weaver, who had 89 total tackles, safety Jeremy Ioane and cornerback Donte Deayon, who are skilled cover guys in the secondary.

Difference-maker
Jay Ajayi, RB

Even as a freshman in 2012, Ajayi was hard to bring down as he averaged a Boise State-record 6.68 yards per rush on 82 carries. Upon becoming the workhorse in 2013, the 6-0, 220-pound Bronco kicked up dust to the tune of 1,425 yards and 18 touchdowns. Boise State won all five games in which Ajayi scored two or more touchdowns. In their five losses, he had only three scores.

BOTTOM LINE

While it may be a new era, there's still some lingering hurt from 2013. Not winning the division stung as did losing in the Hawaii Bowl to Oregon State. But that's as far as BSU fans expect the program to slip and it's up to Harsin to quickly get things back at a top-25 level. With the large number of veterans returning, a strong recruiting class and a manageable non-conference schedule that includes games against BYU, Connecticut, Louisiana and Ole Miss, he should come close to making that happen.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Grant Hedrick (6-0, 195, Sr.)
TB Jay Ajayi (6-0, 216, Jr.)
LT Steven Baggett (6-3, 288, So.)
LG Travis Averill (6-3, 304, So.)
C Marcus Henry (6-3, 285, Jr.)
RG Mario Yakoo (6-4, 330, So.)
RT Rees Odhiambo (6-4, 300, Jr.)
TE Connor Peters (6-4, 242, Sr.)
WR Matt Miller (6-3, 220, Sr.)
WR Shane Williams-Rhodes (5-6, 160, Jr.)
WR Troy Ware (6-2, 183, Jr.)

Defense
DE Tyler Horn (6-5, 276, Sr.)
DT Armand Nance (6-0, 311, Jr.)
DT Justin Taimatuia (6-0, 294, Sr.)
DE Beau Martin (6-2, 254, Sr.)
LB Corey Bell (5-11, 208, Sr.)
LB Blake Renaud (6-2, 247, Sr.)
LB Ben Weaver (6-0, 240, So.)
CB Bryan Douglas (5-9, 176, Sr.)
CB Donte Deayon (5-9, 152, Jr.)
SS Darian Thompson (6-2, 205, Jr.)
FS Jeremy Ioane (5-10, 192, Sr.)

Specialists
K Dan Goodale (5-10, 195, Sr.)
P Sean Wale (6-2, 188, So.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES
1. **Dylan Sumner-Gardner,** S ★★★
2. **Chase Blakley,** ATH ★★★
3. **Cory Young,** RB ★★★

First-year coach Bryan Harsin still ended up with the No. 1 class in the Mountain West despite some defections after the departure of his predecessor, Chris Petersen, for Washington. Harsin and his staff did some swiping of their own in Sumner-Gardner, a former Texas A&M commit (from West Mesquite, Texas) who enrolled early. Linebacker Jabril Frazier (Los Angeles/Verbum Dei) and junior-college defensive end Rondell McNair from Contra Costa (Calif.) CC are two defensive prospects who could play early in their Boise career. Look out for Young, too, as he was a definite late riser.

AJAYI: OTTO KITSINGER / AP

UTAH STATE AGGIES

5-YEAR RECORD 35-29

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Chuckie Keeton (6-2, 200, Sr.)
RB	Joe Hill (5-11, 190, Sr.)
RB	Kelvin Lee (5-10, 187, Jr.)
LT	Kevin Whimpey (6-5, 295, Sr.)
LG	Taani Fisilau (6-2, 293, Jr.)
C	Joe Summers (6-2, 294, Sr.)
LG	Bill Vavau (6-4, 314, Sr.)
LT	Bryce Walker (6-8, 303, Sr.)
TE	Jefferson Court (6-3, 238, Sr.)
WR	JoJo Natson (5-7, 151, Jr.)
WR	Brandon Swindall (6-4, 198, Jr.)

Defense

DE	B.J. Larsen (6-5, 275, Sr.)
NG	Elvis Kamana-Matagi (6-2, 298, Sr.)
DE	Jordan Nielsen (6-5, 270, Jr.)
OLB	Nick Vigil (6-2, 230, So.)
ILB	Kyler Fackrell (6-5, 245, Jr.)
ILB	Zach Vigil (6-2, 232, Sr.)
OLB	Michael Okonkwo (6-1, 222, Jr.)
CB	Rashard Stewart (5-11, 185, Sr.)
CB	Devin Centers (5-9, 190, So.)
SS	Brian Suite (6-3, 205, Sr.)
FS	Frankie Sutera (6-1, 201, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Nick Diaz (5-8, 182, Sr.)
P	Jaron Bentrude (6-1, 209, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Kent Myers,** QB ★★★
2. **Mohelika Uasike,** DT ★★★
3. **Marcus Mosely,** TE ★★★

This Utah State class featured nine signees from Utah and seven defensive linemen, including Sacramento (Calif.) City College tackle Edmund Faimalo, who has already enrolled. Myers is the type of athlete who could play a number of positions and is the highest-rated player in the class. Aaron Wade is an intriguing 6-3, 170-pound sleeper. The Aggies were also quite resourceful in heading to St. Louis and snagging defensive end Adewale Adeoye. The 6-4, 210-pounder has the frame and athleticism to be an excellent pass rusher.

Darell Garretson

Matt Wells deserved to be Mountain West Coach of the Year for the job he did in 2013, bringing Utah State from the WAC into a new league, winning both the Mountain Division and a bowl game. And Wells did it all without his starting quarterback for the second half of the season as Chuckie Keeton had a season-ending knee injury against BYU on Oct. 4.

But there was a silver lining to that dark cloud as freshman Darell Garretson stepped in and did an outstanding job picking up the pieces. Garretson threw for 1,446 yards and 10 touchdowns while completing 60.3 percent of his passes. Keeton is expected to be ready for the 2014 opener at Tennessee Aug. 31. But if he can't go, Wells knows he has an experienced hand he can go to.

The Aggies have starters Brandon Swindall and JoJo Natson returning at wide receiver and Ronald Butler is also a dependable pass catcher. Joe Hill ran for 252 yards last year and he'll probably get more touches out of the backfield with Joey DeMartino having graduated. But Utah State lost most of its stellar offensive line and of that group, only tackle Kevin Whimpey returns. The Aggies will need to get some big bodies in there to protect the quarterback and open up holes for the runners.

Defensively, an already strong unit returns five starters, including linebackers Zach and Nick Vigil and Kyler Fackrell. The trio combined for 263 tackles in 2013 and they will also have defensive end B.J. Larsen back. Larsen had four sacks last year. The secondary is led by strong safety Brian Suite who had five interceptions as a junior. Overall, 18 lettermen return on defense, so Wells should be able to fill the holes on the line and in the defensive backfield with skilled, experienced players.

Difference-maker

Darell Garretson, QB

Quarterback Chuckie Keeton was having an electric start before a knee injury forced him to the sideline in early October. The 6-0, 200-pound Garretson then took the reins as a freshman and led the Aggies to a 6-2 record over their last eight games, including a win over Northern Illinois in the Poinsettia Bowl. His best performance came in a 47-10 win over Hawaii in early November, when he threw for 370 yards and three touchdowns.

BOTTOM LINE

If Utah State expects to repeat as division champion and take the next step in winning the Mountain West title game, it will have to protect its home field at Romney Stadium. Losing to Boise State last year didn't hurt because the Broncos faltered on the road themselves. But with Utah State traveling to Boise this year for the final game of the regular season Nov. 29, it can't afford to give up any ground in the race for first place. With Air Force, UNLV, New Mexico and San Jose State on the home schedule, the Aggies should hold serve in Logan.

2 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

MOUNTAIN WEST MOUNTAIN

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.31	@ TENNESSEE	
S.6	Idaho State	
S.13	Wake Forest	
S.20	@ ARKANSAS STATE	
O.3	@ BYU	14-31
O.11	Air Force	52-20
O.18	@ COLORADO STATE	13-0
O.25	UNLV	28-24
N.1	@ HAWAII	47-10
N.7	@ WYOMING	35-7
N.15	New Mexico	45-10
N.21	San Jose State	40-12
N.29	@ BOISE STATE	23-34

COACH

Matt Wells
Second year (9-5)
Career record: 9-5

Offensive coordinators:
Kevin McGiven (second year)
Luke Wells (second year)
Defensive coordinator:
Todd Orlando (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 9-5
(Beat Northern Illinois in the Poinsettia Bowl, 21-14)
Stadium: Romney Stadium (25,513)
Tickets: 888-UState-1
Site: Logan, Utah
Website: utahstateaggies.com
Twitter: @USUFootball

GARRETSON: ERIC DRAPER / AP

3 COLORADO STATE RAMS

It's a good thing Jim McElwain doesn't pay any attention to the polls. The Rams were picked to finish toward the rear of the Mountain Division in 2013. They then went 8-6 overall, finished third in the division at 5-3 and staged one of the greatest comebacks of the bowl season, rallying to beat Washington State, 48-45, in the New Mexico Bowl.

Colorado State comes into 2014 having won four of its last five games and found a quarterback in Garrett Grayson. The senior threw for 3,696 yards, tops among returning Mountain West quarterbacks, while completing 62.1 percent of his passes and throwing for 23 touchdowns. He flew under the radar a bit last year with Derek Carr and David Fales throwing for big numbers but teams that have to play CSU this year won't overlook Grayson.

Nor will they overlook his weapons. Receiver Rashard Higgins set a school record for catches by a freshman with 68 last year. Joe Hansley is a solid possession guy and tight end Kivon Cartwright is a big target at 6-4, 245 pounds.

The Rams will also be improved defensively, returning three members of their secondary in safeties Kevin Pierre-Louis and Trent Matthews–the latter led the team with four interceptions last season–and cornerback Bernard Blake, who had 13 passes defended. The team's starting linebacking corps also returns with MLB Max Morgan and OLBs Aaron Davis and Cory James. They will make sure opposing teams don't turn short gains into big ones.

Colorado State also is set with its kicking game. Lou Groza semifinalist Jared Roberts is back to handle the kicking chores after he scored 121 points last year. Punter Hayden Hunt had just four touchbacks in 68 attempts.

BOTTOM LINE: There's no game against Alabama this year and the Rams should fare well in nonleague play against in-state rival Colorado, UC Davis, Boston College and Tulsa. If they can win at Boise State Sept. 6, it could set the tone for a big season.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.29	Colorado*	27-41
S.6	@ BOISE STATE	30-42
S.13	UC Davis	
S.27	@ BOSTON COLLEGE	
O.4	Tulsa	27-30
O.11	@ NEVADA	38-17
O.18	Utah State	0-13
O.25	Wyoming	52-22
N.1	@ SAN JOSE STATE	27-34
N.8	Hawaii	35-28
N.22	New Mexico	66-42
N.28	@ AIR FORCE	58-13

** At Denver, CO*

COACH
Jim McElwain
Third year (12-14)
Career record: 12-14

Offensive coordinator: Dave Baldwin (third year)
Defensive coordinators: Marty English (third year) and Al Simmons (third year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 8-6
(Beat Washington State in the New Mexico Bowl, 48-45)
Stadium: Hughes Stadium (32,500)
Tickets: 800-491-RAMS
Site: Fort Collins, Colo.
Website: csurams.com
Twitter: @CSUFootball

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Garrett Grayson (6-2, 220, Sr.)
RB Jasen Oden (5-11, 208, Jr.)
RB Donnell Alexander (5-11, 205, Jr.)
LT Ty Sambrailo (6-5, 310, Sr.)
LG Mason Myers (6-3, 300, Sr.)
C Fred Zerblis (6-3, 295, So.)
RG Tomas Rivera (6-6, 310, So.)
RT Mason Hathaway (6-5, 294, Sr.)
TE Kivon Cartwright (6-4, 245, Sr.)
WR Rashard Higgins (6-2, 180, So.)
WR Joe Hansley (5-10, 180, Jr.)

Defense
DE Austin Berk (6-5, 230, So.)
DT LaRyan King (6-1, 285, Jr.)
DT Terry Jackson (6-1, 275, Jr.)
DE SteveO Michel (6-1, 225, Jr.)
OLB Cory James (6-0, 240, Jr.)
MLB Max Morgan (6-1, 225, Sr.)
OLB Aaron Davis (6-0, 220, Sr.)
CB Bernard Blake (6-0, 180, Sr.)
CB DeAndre Elliott (6-1, 185, Jr.)
S Trent Matthews (6-3, 210, Jr.)
S Kevin Pierre-Louis (6-1, 212, Jr.)

Specialists
K Jared Roberts (6-1, 205, Sr.)
P Hayden Hunt (5-11, 196, So.)

Sporting News All-American

4 WYOMING COWBOYS

Once again, change is coming to Laramie. This time, it's Craig Bohl who is expected to make the Cowboys consistent winners, something his predecessors Dave Christensen and Joe Glenn were unable to do long-term. Bohl, who won big at North Dakota State with three straight FCS national titles, inherits a team that needs a quarterback and a running back and can use some help on the defensive line to support all-conference junior defensive end Eddie Yarbrough.

Wyoming has 18 starters back, nine on defense. Bohl will put in a West Coast offense and a 4-3 defense and hope the Cowboys can pick up the system quickly. He hopes not to make things complex and thereby limit the mental mistakes that come with blown assignments.

The competition at quarterback is between sophomore Tom Thornton, redshirt senior Colby Kirkegaard and junior-college transfer Aaron Young. Freshmen Austin Fort and Nick Smith will also get a shot when fall practice begins.

If sophomore D.J. May can bounce back from a left pectoral tear, he and Shaun Wick could provide a nice 1-2 punch in the backfield. Wick rushed for 979 yards as a sophomore.

Wyoming has three starting receivers back led by Dominic Rufran, who led the team with 75 receptions and 960 yards. Tanner Gentry and Jalen Claiborne, who combined for 72 receptions, figure to benefit from the West Coast offense Bohl is installing.

Defensively, there's a lot of experience for Bohl to work with. Senior defensive tackle Patrick Mertens was granted a sixth year of eligibility from the NCAA and will team with Yarbrough in the front portion of the 4-3. Returning linebackers Jordan Stanton, Lucas Wacha and Mark Nzeocha are all capable of making plays.

BOTTOM LINE: Usually, it takes time for a new coach to get everyone acclimated. Look for Bohl to accelerate the process by keeping things simple and getting last year's 5-7 record turned around.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Montana	
S.6	Air Force	56-23
S.13	@ OREGON	
S.20	Florida Atlantic	
S.27	@ MICHIGAN STATE	
O.11	@ HAWAII	59-56
O.18	San Jose State	44-51
O.25	@ COLORADO STATE	22-52
N.1	@ FRESNO STATE	10-48
N.7	Utah State	7-35
N.22	Boise State	7-48
N.29	@ NEW MEXICO	38-31

COACH
Craig Bohl
First year
Career record: 104-32

Offensive coordinator: Brent Vigen (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Steve Stanard (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 5-7
Stadium: War Memorial Stadium (29,181)
Tickets: 877-WYO-FAN1
Site: Laramie, Wyo.
Website: gowyo.com
Twitter: @wyoathletics

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Colby Kirkegaard (6-3, 205, Sr.)
RB Shaun Wick (5-10, 204, Jr.)
RB D.J. May (5-11, 196, So.)
LT Nathan Leddige (6-5, 289, So.)
LG Jake Jones (6-3, 295, Jr.)
C Rafe Kiely (6-3, 299, Jr.)
RG Chase Roullier (6-4, 293, So.)
RT Connor Rains (6-7, 318, Sr.)
WR Jalen Claiborne (5-9, 175, Sr.)
WR Tanner Gentry (6-2, 190, So.)
WR Dominic Rufran (6-0, 188, Sr.)

Defense
DE Eddie Yarbrough (6-3, 257, Jr.)
DT Patrick Mertens (6-5, 295, Sr.)
DT Riley Lange (6-3, 250, Sr.)
DE Sonny Puletasi (6-3, 251, Sr.)
SLB Jordan Stanton (6-0, 246, Sr.)
MLB Mark Nzeocha (6-3, 235, Sr.)
WLB Lucas Wacha (6-1, 214, So.)
CB Tim Hayes (5-9, 185, So.)
CB Blair Burns (5-10, 186, Sr.)
SS Darrenn White (6-0, 192, Sr.)
FS Jesse Sampson (6-0, 196, Sr.)

Specialists
K Stuart Williams (5-11, 180, Sr.)
P Ethan Wood (6-3, 165, So.)

Sporting News All-American

5 AIR FORCE FALCONS

The Falcons are usually a fairly consistent bunch–start quickly and tend to fade late, but always have enough of an impact to go bowling.

But that wasn't the case in 2013. A 2-10 overall record and a winless conference season at 0-8 left coach Troy Calhoun and his staff hitting the reboot button. Indeed, there's a need to turn things around quickly in Colorado Springs.

The defense is going to have to get better if the Falcons are to get back on track. Only New Mexico allowed more points than Air Force's 480 last season. Calhoun brought Tim Cross and Ron Vanderlinden to coach the line and linebackers, respectively, and that should help.

Having eight starters returning will also help. Senior linebackers Joey Nichol, Spencer Proctor and Dexter Henry are back to hold down the middle of the AFA defense, while senior free safety Christian Spears will be the leader in the secondary. All of those four-year players should allow the new coaches move things along on a fast track during preseason drills.

Air Force has scored in 258 straight games. But it needs to control the line of scrimmage, take care of the ball, sustain drives and find the end zone more frequently. The Falcons were last in the Mountain West in scoring offense so they need to crank things up a bit. That means quarterback Nate Romine needs to run the team more efficiently and fullback Broam Hart needs to build on last year's numbers that saw him average 4.2 yards per carry with six TDs.

The Falcons do have a reliable kicker in senior Will Conant, who was 11-for-13 on field goal tries and missed just one extra point in 33 attempts.

BOTTOM LINE: It's hard to imagine Air Force staying down for very long. But the Mountain Division is tough and it may be hard for the Falcons to make up a whole lot of ground. They should get closer to .500 but a return to a bowl game isn't likely.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Nicholls State	
S.6	@ WYOMING	23-56
S.13	@ GEORGIA STATE	
S.27	Boise State	20-42
O.4	Navy	10-28
O.11	@ UTAH STATE	
O.18	New Mexico	37-45
N.1	@ ARMY	42-28
N.8	@ UNLV	21-41
N.15	Nevada	42-45
N.21	@ SAN DIEGO STATE	20-27
N.28	Colorado State	13-58

COACH

Troy Calhoun
Eighth year (49-41)
Career record: 49-41

Offensive coordinators:
Clay Hendrix (eighth year)
Mike Thiessen (fifth year)
Defensive coordinator:
Steve Russ (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 2-10
Stadium: Falcon Stadium (46,692)
Tickets: 719-472-1895
Site: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Website: goairforcefalcons.com
Twitter: @AF_Falcons

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Nate Romine (5-11, 195, So.)
TB	Devin Rushing (5-10, 180, Jr.)
FB	Broam Hart (6-0, 220, Sr.)
LT	Sevrin Remmo (6-3, 225, Jr.)
LG	Jimmy Manuel (6-3, 275, Sr.)
C	Michael Husar Jr. (6-0, 270, Sr.)
RG	Andrew Ruechel (6-1, 240, Jr.)
LT	Arinze Uzo-Okereke (6-5, 280, Jr.)
TE	Garrett Griffin (6-4, 225, Jr.)
WR	Jalen Robinette (6-3, 225, So.)
WR	Sam Gagliano (5-9, 185, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Sam Byers (6-5, 257, So.)
NG	Troy Timmerman (6-2, 260, Sr.)
DE	Alex Hansen (6-2, 260, Jr.)
LB	Claude Alexander (6-1, 220, So.)
LB	Joey Nichol (6-1, 230, Sr.)
LB	Spencer Proctor (6-2, 207, Sr.)
LB	Dexter Walker (6-0, 205, Jr.)
CB	Jordan Mays (6-1, 190, Sr.)
CB	Roland Ladipo (5-10, 185, So.)
SS	Weston Steelhammer (6-2, 200, So.)
FS	Christian Spears (5-9, 185, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Will Conant (6-2, 215, Sr.)
P	Brett Dunn (5-10, 190, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

6 NEW MEXICO LOBOS

It's not from a lack of trying that Bob Davie hasn't been able to get the program turned around. The reality is it's not easy to change a culture of losing right away. Ultimately, it takes good players and New Mexico is still in the process of gathering enough of them to move up in the standings.

The Lobos were 2-3 at one point last year only to drop six of their final seven to finish 3-9. And with most of the Mountain Division looking strong, it could be tough to move up. But with six starters back on both offense and defense and a good recruiting class–which features 11 junior-college transfers–coming in, Davie hopes to close the gap a little more.

Quarterback Cole Gautsche returns as do receivers Marquis Bundy and Jeric Magnant. In 10 games, Gautsche threw for 639 yards and seven touchdowns while running for 777 yards and eight TDs. His double-threat capabilities will keep defenses guessing. And when he throws, he'll look for Magnant and Bundy, who had 19 receptions apiece in 2013.

Defensively, the Lobos will try to shore things up after allowing an average of 42.8 points and 516.6 yards a game in 2013. Inside linebacker Dakota Cox is back after leading the team with 99 tackles and strong safety David Guthrie had 65 stops. Defensive end Brett Bowers had six sacks and is also good against the run in the 3-4 scheme Davie uses.

New Mexico does have one not-so-secret weapon in kick returner Carlos Wiggins. He ran back three kickoffs for touchdowns last year and teams will try to avoid letting him get his hands on the ball at all costs.

BOTTOM LINE: Will the infusion of juco talent be enough to help stop the losing? Can Davie find a featured running back to take the place of Kasey Carrier, who ran for 1,122 yards and scored nine TDs last year? So many question marks for a team that has averaged just one conference win over the last five years.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	UTEP	42-35
S.6	Arizona State	
S.20	@ NEW MEXICO STATE	66-17
S.26	Fresno State	28-69
O.4	@ TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO	13-21
O.10	San Diego State	30-35
O.18	@ AIR FORCE	45-37
N.1	@ UNLV	42-56
N.8	Boise State	17-45
N.15	@ UTAH STATE	10-45
N.22	@ COLORADO STATE	42-66
N.29	Wyoming	31-38

COACH

Bob Davie
Third year (7-18)
Career record: 42-43

Offensive coordinator:
Bob DeBesse (third year)
Defensive coordinator:
Kevin Cosgrove (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 3-9
Stadium: University Stadium (39,224)
Tickets: 800-955-HOWL
Site: Albuquerque, N.M.
Website: golobos.com
Twitter: @NewMexicoFB

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Cole Gautsche (6-4, 234, Jr.)
RB	Jhurell Pressley (5-10, 195, Jr.)
LT	Reno Henderson (6-3, 258, So.)
LG	LaMar Bratton (6-0, 291, Sr.)
C	Garrett Adcock (6-2, 284, So.)
RG	Jamal Price (6-5, 315, Sr.)
RT	Johnny Vizcaino (6-2, 270, Jr.)
TE	Reece White (6-1, 225, Jr.)
WR	Marquis Bundy (6-4, 211, Jr.)
WR	Jeric Magnant (6-0, 182, Sr.)
WR	Carlos Wiggins (5-8, 157, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Nik D'Avanzo (6-3, 281, So.)
NT	Dominic Twitty (6-2, 289, So.)
DE	Brett Bowers (6-2, 270, Sr.)
OLB	Javarie Johnson (6-4, 248, Sr.)
ILB	Dakota Cox (6-0, 229, So.)
ILB	Tevin Newman (6-1, 204, Sr.)
OLB	Ryan Langford (6-3, 223, Jr.)
CB	Cranston Jones (5-8, 169, Jr.)
CB	SaQwan Edwards (6-1, 189, Sr.)
SS	David Guthrie (5-9, 208, Sr.)
FS	Devonta Tabannah (5-10, 178, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Jason Sanders (5-11, 165, Fr.)
P	Sam Gentry (6-6, 249, So.)

Sporting News All-American

Brett Hundley

PROJECTED FINISH

NORTH

1. **OREGON** — Bowl Projection: Sugar Bowl (Playoff Semifinal) & College Football Championship game
2. **STANFORD** — Bowl Projection: Fiesta Bowl
3. **WASHINGTON** — Bowl Projection: Fight Hunger Bowl
4. **WASHINGTON STATE** — Bowl Projection: Las Vegas Bowl
5. **OREGON STATE** — Bowl Projection: Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
6. **CALIFORNIA**

SOUTH

1. **UCLA** — Bowl Projection: Cotton Bowl
2. **ARIZONA STATE** — Bowl Projection: Alamo Bowl
3. **USC** — Bowl Projection: Holiday Bowl
4. **ARIZONA** — Bowl Projection: Sun Bowl
5. **UTAH**
6. **COLORADO**

High-profile new coaches add intrigue to title chase

BY BRUCE PASCOE | *Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)*

The really big money from the Pac-12's $3 billion media rights deal hasn't fully flowed in yet—thanks to start-up costs, buyouts and other issues—but the accompanying pressure has.

Oregon and Stanford continue to be the conference's perennial national contenders, UCLA is breaking through under Jim Mora and everyone else is trying to catch up—especially traditional power USC. The Trojans' athletic department was so determined not to be left behind that it didn't even let embattled coach Lane Kiffin get to October before firing him.

That was just the beginning of an awkward autumn in L.A., where USC rode assistant and interim coach Ed Oregeron to a 6-2 record but watched him quit when he didn't get the permanent job—and then reached out for old Trojan hand Steve Sarkisian, who happily bolted Washington for a fifth stint at USC. UCLA was happy to tell everyone it extended Mora's contract for six years—just when Sarkisian was trying to win his introductory press conference.

Washington replaced Sarkisian with Chris Petersen, who was running a powerhouse at Boise State. That continued the Pac-12's expensive trend of upgrading head coaches, with Rich Rodriguez (Arizona), Mike Leach (Washington State) and Todd Graham (Arizona State) among the name brands landing here in recent seasons.

But all that change is just about head coaches. The incumbents are shuffling their staffs in an effort to stay competitive, too. Utah, still struggling to move the ball since joining the Pac-12 in 2011, is making hiring new offensive coordinators an annual tradition, while Cal's Sonny Dykes, after just his first year, turned to a new defensive coordinator. In all, three teams hired new OCs and seven hired new DCs.

The talent is good and the fact that only Washington and Arizona will lose their starting quarterbacks—provided Utah's Travis Wilson is cleared medically from an arterial issue—suggests a gentle early-season learning curve. Of course, there's also a pair of Heisman candidates at quarterback: UCLA's Brett Hundley and Oregon's Marcus Mariota. Those two just might meet in the Pac-12 Championship Game, which could then also serve as an elimination game for the Heisman—and for a spot in the new College Football Playoff.

TRENDING

Three stories to watch

1 **L.A. flip-flop: Is UCLA just stepping on USC because the Trojans have been down, or will the Bruins continue to own L.A. over what is historically the best team in town?**

RECRUITING RANKINGS

by JC Shurburtt, 247Sports

247 COMPOSITE

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL PLAYERS	★★★★★ 5-STAR RECRUITS	★★★★ 4-STAR RECRUITS	★★★ 3-STAR RECRUITS	POINTS
1	USC	19	2	8	8	260.54
2	Stanford	20	1	7	12	250.06
3	UCLA	18	0	8	10	233.99
4	Oregon	20	0	7	12	230.73
5	Arizona State	27	0	8	18	222.47
6	Arizona	29	0	4	23	211.43
7	Washington	24	0	4	17	197.58
8	California	21	0	1	17	179.78
9	Oregon State	29	0	0	21	164.64
10	Washington State	19	0	0	18	162.11
11	Utah	18	0	1	15	160.27
12	Colorado	23	0	0	11	141.92

ALL-PAC 12

Offense

QB **Marcus Mariota,** Jr. Oregon
RB **Javorius Allen,** Jr. USC
RB **D.J. Foster,** Jr., Arizona State
OL **Hroniss Grasu,** Sr., Oregon
OL **Tyler Johnstone,** Jr., Oregon
OL **Jamil Douglas,** Sr., Arizona State
OL **Andrus Peat,** Jr., Stanford
OL **Isaac Seumalo,** Jr., Oregon State
TE **Connor Hamlett,** Sr., Oregon State
WR **Nelson Agholor,** Jr., USC
WR **Ty Montgomery,** Sr., Stanford

Defense

DL **Leonard Williams,** Jr., USC
DL **Hau'oli Kikaha,** Sr., Washington
DL **Danny Shelton,** Sr., Washington
DL **Henry Anderson,** Sr., Stanford
LB **Myles Jack,** So., UCLA
LB **Hayes Pullard,** Sr., USC
LB **Shaq Thompson,** Jr., Washington
DB **Ifo Ekpre-Olomu,** Sr., Oregon
DB **Marcus Peters,** Jr., Washington
DB **Jordan Richards,** Sr., Stanford
DB **Alex Carter,** Sr., Stanford

Specialists

K **Zane Gonzalez,** So., Arizona State
P **Tom Hackett,** Jr., Utah

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

A sore knee nudged the talented dual threat out of the Heisman race last season, but he's healthy and stronger now.

Marcus Mariota

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

A great athlete for his size, Williams excelled a year ago despite a torn shoulder and could generate a first-round NFL pick this season.

ASCENDING

UCLA

▸ The Bruins won 19 games over coach Jim Mora's first two seasons and are rich enough in returnees that a national title run isn't out of the question.

DESCENDING

CAL

▸ Even beyond coach Sonny Dykes, who is only in his second season, the woeful Bears have operated without a buzz for years now.

2 Two-way players: UCLA's Myles Jack was electric at both linebacker and running back, while linebacker Shaq Thompson is too talented not to take a few carries at Washington.

3 Tailbacks by committee: Marquee running backs such as Arizona's Ka'Deem Carey and Washington's Bishop Sankey keep leaving the Pac-12, but sharing the load is working for a lot of teams.

RATING THE PAC 12

FASTEST RECEIVER
Nelson Agholor, USC
Yes, they do grow breakaway threats on trees at USC.

BEST HANDS
Austin Hill, WR, Arizona
The Wildcats missed his big (6-3) receiving range when an ACL tear kept him out last season.

BEST PASSING QB
Marcus Mariota, Oregon
Throwing for 31 touchdowns and four interceptions last season—despite a knee injury—says something.

BEST RUNNING QB
Brett Hundley, UCLA
Always a dangerous rushing threat, Hundley is also improving in the pocket.

MOST ELUSIVE RB
Thomas Tyner, Oregon
He set the school record for a true freshman with 711 rushing yards in 2013.

BEST INSTINCTS
Ifo Ekpre-Olomu, CB, Oregon
This ballhawking Duck is smart and alert.

BEST ATHLETE
Myles Jack, LB/RB, UCLA
Freak athlete was the Pac-12's top freshman on both offense and defense last season.

PLAYER MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (OFF THE FIELD)
Will Oliver, K, Colorado
He may rep his teammates someday as an agent or marketer, having posted a 3.67 GPA in CU's School of Business last year.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Marcus Mariota, QB, Oregon
Maybe it's just the laid-back Hawaiian in him, but Mariota is difficult to rattle.

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Marcus Mariota, QB, Oregon
Might have been a top-10 NFL draft pick had he left this year.

TOP IMPACT FROSH
D.J. Calhoun, LB, Arizona State
Graduating early from high school paid off when he quickly rose up the spring depth chart in Tempe.

HARDEST HITTER
Ifo Ekpre-Olomu, CB, Oregon
Ekpre-Olomu is extremely physical for a cornerback.

BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER
Addison Gillam, LB, Colorado
Lightly recruited linebacker became a standout freshman in part because of his intense drive.

BEST INTERVIEW
Connor Halliday, QB, Washington State
Quarterback's candor through the Cougars' transition has been refreshing.

BEST COACH AS STRATEGIST
Mike Riley, Oregon State
Doesn't need four- or five-star recruits to scare opponents.

BEST COACH AS RECRUITER
Jim Mora, UCLA
Steve Sarkisian stole some thunder on Signing Day this year but better talent is the foundation of UCLA's resurgence.

HOTTEST SEAT
Kyle Whittingham, Utah
After two straight 5-7 seasons, things are getting a little toasty for the 2008 national Coach of the Year.

BEST VENUE
Autzen Stadium, Oregon
There's passionate fans, unnerving acoustics . . . and a pretty good football team.

HUNDLEY: CHRIS CARLSON / AP; MARIOTA: MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ / AP

OREGON DUCKS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

PAC-12 NORTH

1

Marcus Mariota

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	South Dakota	
S.6	Michigan State	
S.13	Wyoming	
S.20	@ WASHINGTON STATE	62-38
O.2	Arizona	16-42
O.11	@ UCLA	42-14
O.18	Washington	45-24
O.24	California*	55-16
N.1	Stanford	20-26
N.8	@ UTAH	44-21
N.22	Colorado	57-16
N.29	@ OREGON STATE	36-35

* At Santa Clara, CA

COACH

Mark Helfrich
Second year (11-2)
Career record: 11-2

Offensive coordinator: Scott Frost (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Don Pellum (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 11-2
(Beat Texas in the Alamo Bowl, 30-7)
Stadium: Autzen Stadium (54,000)
Tickets: 800-WEBFOOT
Site: Eugene, Ore.
Website: goducks.com
Twitter: @WinTheDay

This is how good life is in Eugene these days: Running back De'Anthony Thomas leaves early for the NFL draft and wide receiver Bralon Addison blows out a knee, yet ... there's really no need to fret.

The Ducks still could challenge for the national title.

Even with those losses, eight starters still return to what was the No. 2 offense in the nation last season. The Ducks have a Heisman candidate at quarterback in Marcus Mariota, a powerful 1-2 backfield punch with Byron Marshall and Thomas Tyner, and a skilled, experience offensive line to protect everybody.

And even without Addison, there are plenty of good receiving options, too.

It's enough to seem almost unfair.

Not only is Mariota back to make another run at the Heisman, but he should be better and healthier, having been limited somewhat half of last season with a knee injury that forced him to rely more often on passing. Of course, the word "limited" is a relative one with Mariota: He still managed to throw for 3,665 yards, 31 touchdowns and four interceptions, while also running for 715 yards and nine touchdowns.

Mariota had a consistent group of Addison, Josh Huff and Keanon Lowe to throw to, but Huff's eligibility expired and Addison appeared to be lost in the spring, though Oregon officially did not acknowledge the injury.

But Lowe proved himself last season not only as a pass-catcher but also as a blocker and leader, while backups Chance Allen and B.J. Kelley appeared ready to move into more prominent roles this time.

Like Mariota, Tyner was dragged down a bit last season, suffering an ankle injury early in the season and a hamstring pull later, but he still managed to average 59.2 yards per game. Both he and the rugged Marshall averaged 6.2 yards a carry, with Marshall averaging 86.5 yards per game to surpass 1,000 for the season.

Difference-maker

Marcus Mariota, QB

After their Nov. 7 loss to Stanford, the Ducks were not shy about their disappointment with being out of national championship contention. The loss also took Mariota out of the Heisman conversation. But in the Ducks' first eight games—all wins—Mariota threw 20 touchdowns with no interceptions and topped 300 yards passing four times. Despite 4,380 total yards and 40 total touchdowns, Mariota spurned early entry to the NFL for his junior season—no doubt to redeem what was lost early last November against the Cardinal.

MARIOTA: ANDREW SHURTLEFF / AP

The Ducks weren't without trouble on the line last season, and struggled to replace guard Kyle Long, but again, that's a relative problem. This was a team that still managed to average 565 yards in total offense per game, after all.

While flaws are few offensively, defense is where things get interesting for the Ducks.

Longtime Oregon defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti retired, and there were significant losses in the front seven. Tackles Wade Keliikipi and Taylor Hart are gone from the line, but big junior DeForest Buckner showed promise last year, and Alex Balducci and Arik Armstead were solid in reserve. End Tony Washington is back, and he led the Ducks in tackles for loss.

Oregon had to replace three linebackers in 2013, and the replacements were banged up last season, but their experience should pay off now. Senior Derrick Malone, who returns to his weakside spot, was the Ducks' leading tackler.

Already losing cornerback Terrance Mitchell early to the NFL, along with senior safeties Brian Jackson and Avery Patterson, the Ducks' secondary was spared significantly when All-America cornerback Ifo Ekpre-Olomu opted to return. Ekpre-Olomu was not only the Ducks' second-leading tackler last season (84) but a well-regarded leader. The only problem is that he's so good that opposing defenses may avoid him as much as possible. That could mean Dior Mathis, in his fifth season, will get a final chance to prove why he was a four-star recruit out of Detroit.

On special teams, kicker Matt Wogan took over kicking duties late last season, while sophomore Ian Wheeler could press for punter Dylan Ausherman's job.

BOTTOM LINE

The Ducks never had a chance to say goodbye to the BCS, snapping a streak of four straight BCS bowls last season, having missed out on the Pac-12 championship game because of a loss at Stanford. But it would hardly be a surprise if they jump right into the new College Football Playoff this season. Oregon has fewer big losses than the Cardinal, and their schedule is friendly, too: The Ducks miss both Arizona State and USC, and will host Stanford. If they get past UCLA in Pasadena on Oct. 11, watch out.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

The Ducks had the No. 21 class nationally and believe that they may have found the second coming of Jonathan Stewart in the form of Freeman, who set a U.S. Army All-American Bowl record for touchdowns scored last January. Springs was a tremendous get out of Texas and has NFL potential at cornerback, while Charles Nelson and Tony James arrive from Florida with plenty of speed. Keep an eye on junior-college defensive end Tui Talia and Jalen Jelks from the high school ranks in Arizona—those two have plenty of promise, as does Justin Hollins, a 6-5, 210-pound edge rusher from Texas. Tyrell Crosby, an offensive tackle from the Las Vegas area, has big upside, too.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Royce Freeman, RB ★★★★★
2. Arrion Springs, CB ★★★★
3. Jalen Brown, WR ★★★★

MARSHALL: RICK SCUTERI / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Marcus Mariota	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	167.7	245-386-4	63.5	3665	31	281.9

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Byron Marshall	12	168	1038	6.2	14	86.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Bralon Addison	13	61	890	14.6	7	68.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Derrick Malone	13	45	60	105

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Tony Washington	13	7.5	36

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Ifo Ekpre-Olomu	3	0	0.0	0

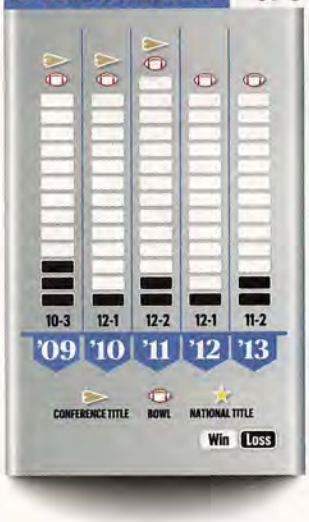
Byron Marshall

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	ORE	OPP
SCORING	591	266
Points Per Game	45.5	20.5
FIRST DOWNS	348	271
Rushing	171	123
Passing	164	121
Penalty	13	27
RUSHING YARDAGE	3556	2152
Yards gained rushing	3830	2418
Yards lost rushing	274	266
Rushing Attempts	568	563
Average Per Rush	6.3	3.8
Average Per Game	273.5	165.5
TDs Rushing	42	17
PASSING YARDAGE	3789	2659
Comp-Att-Int	256-405-6	271-480-17
Average Per Pass	9.4	5.5
Average Per Catch	14.8	9.8
Average Per Game	291.5	204.5
TDs Passing	32	14
TOTAL OFFENSE	7345	4811
Total Plays	973	1043
Average Per Play	7.5	4.6
Average Per Game	565.0	370.1
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	49-1063	72-1559
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	23-285	8-26
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	17-309	6-54
KICK RETURN AVG.	21.7	21.7
PUNT RETURN AVG.	12.4	3.2
INT RETURN AVG.	18.2	9.0
FUMBLES-LOST	30-12	22-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	106-912	62-551
Average Per Game	70.2	42.4
PUNTS-YARDS	43-1681	81-3210
Average Per Punt	39.1	39.6
Net punt average	38.5	35.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	25:33	34:27
3RD-DOWN CONV.	69/160	93/232
3rd-Down Pct.	43%	40%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	15/31	13/28
4th-Down Pct.	48%	46%
SACKS BY-YARDS	28-175	18-111
MISC YARDS	77	0
TDS SCORED	81	32
FG-ATTEMPTS	10-14	15-18
ATTENDANCE	403617	273480
Games/Avg Per Game	7/57660	5/54696
Neutral Site Games		1/65918

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Oregon	182	138	134	137	0	591
Opponent	73	87	47	59	0	266

5-YEAR RECORD 57-9



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Marcus Mariota (6-4, 215, Jr.)
	Jake Rodrigues (6-3, 217, So.)
RB	Byron Marshall (5-10, 201, Jr.)
	Thomas Tyner (5-11, 211, So.)
LT	Tyler Johnstone (6-6, 285, Jr.)
	Matt Pierson (6-6, 267, Jr.)
LG	Hamani Stevens (6-3, 312, Sr.)
	Haniteli Lousi (6-5, 295, Jr.)
C	Hroniss Grasu (6-3, 297, Sr.)
	Doug Brenner (6-2, 305, Fr.)
RG	Cameron Hunt (6-4, 282, So.)
	Andre Yruretagoyena (6-5, 284, Jr.)
RT	Jake Fisher (6-6, 299, Sr.)
	Evan Voeller (6-5, 295, Fr.)
TE	Evan Baylis (6-6, 235, So.)
	Johnny Mundt (6-4, 232, So.)
WR	Chance Allen (6-2, 200, So.)
	Devon Allen (6-0, 190, Fr.)
WR	Keanon Lowe (5-9, 186, Sr.)
	B.J. Kelley (6-2, 183, Jr.)
WR	Dwayne Stanford (6-5, 205, So.)
	Darren Carrington (6-2, 192, Fr.)

Defense

DE	DeForest Buckner (6-7, 286, Jr.)
	Tui Talia (6-5, 270, Jr.)
DT	Alex Balducci (6-4, 305, Jr.)
	T.J. Daniel (6-6, 275, So.)
DT	Arik Armstead (6-8, 296, Jr.)
	Sam Kamp (6-4, 266, Jr.)
DE	Tony Washington (6-3, 244, Sr.)
	Christian French (6-5, 244, Jr.)
SLB	Tyson Coleman (6-1, 240, Jr.)
	Torrodney Prevot (6-3, 214, So.)
MLB	Rodney Hardrick (6-1, 231, Jr.)
	Joe Walker (6-2, 230, Jr.)
WLB	Derrick Malone (6-2, 220, Sr.)
	Rahim Cassell (6-0, 223, Jr.)
CB	Dior Mathis (5-9, 175, Sr.)
	Stephen Amoako (5-11, 197, So.)
CB	Ifo Ekpre-Olomu (5-10, 195, Sr.)
	Troy Hill (5-11, 175, Sr.)
FS	Erick Dargan (5-11, 212, Sr.)
	Reggie Daniels (6-1, 205, So.)
SS	Tyree Robinson (6-4, 200, Fr.)
	Isaac Dixon (5-11, 193, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Matt Wogan (6-2, 197, So.)
P	Dylan Ausherman (6-3, 185, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

STANFORD CARDINAL

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
PAC-12 NORTH
2

Ty Montgomery

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	UC Davis	
S.6	USC	17-20
S.13	Army	34-20
S.27	@ WASHINGTON	31-28
O.4	@ NOTRE DAME	27-20
O.10	Washington State	55-17
O.18	@ ARIZONA STATE	38-14
O.25	Oregon State	20-12
N.1	@ OREGON	26-20
N.15	Utah	21-27
N.22	@ CALIFORNIA	63-13
N.28	@ UCLA	24-10

COACH
David Shaw
Fourth year (34-7)
Career record: 34-7

Offensive coordinator: Mike Bloomgren (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Lance Anderson (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 11-3
(Lost to Michigan State in the Rose Bowl, 24-20)
Stadium: Stanford Stadium (50,000)
Tickets: 800-STANFORD
Site: Palo Alto, Calif.
Website: gostanford.com
Twitter: @StanfordFball

Don't cry for Stanford. Three years ago, coach Jim Harbaugh took off after an Orange Bowl appearance ... and Stanford went to the Fiesta Bowl the next year. Quarterback Andrew Luck took off two years ago ... and then the Cardinal won the Rose Bowl. Last year, Stanford's all-time leading rusher, Stepfan Taylor, was gone along with a pair of tight ends who left early for the NFL ... and the Cardinal went to another Rose Bowl.

That's four straight BCS bowls, suggesting a foundation built on recruiting and development that isn't shaken easily.

So this year, even though the Cardinal return only 11 starters, with the defensive and offensive line particularly facing some big losses, it's not a good idea to count them out for another big season. Especially because Stanford can reload around quarterback Kevin Hogan and receiver Ty Montgomery, while plugging a talented 2012 recruiting class of offensive linemen into the starting lineup.

The biggest concern may be on defense. The losses of inside linebacker Shayne Skov, outside linebacker Trent Murphy and safety Ed Reynolds were among the most significant, while defensive coordinator Derek Mason left to become the head coach at Vanderbilt. But even on the coaching staff, Stanford simply looked within, moving outside linebackers coach Lance Anderson to defensive coordinator.

That's the way it usually works at Stanford: Just plug the next guy in, and keep going. This time, even without Murphy, who was among the most productive defensive players in the nation, Stanford is hoping to get more from senior outside linebacker Kevin Anderson, who had 26 tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks and one interception in 2013.

In Skov, the Cardinal lost an undisputed leader on the unit. But it's expected that inside linebacker A.J. Tarpley will take an even bigger leadership role as a fifth-year senior.

With Skov around, it was easy to forget that Tarpley was the Cardinal's leading tackler over the past three seasons and a well-respected voice in the locker room. While he's not exceptionally athletic, Tarpley is quick and instinctive. Meanwhile, Blake Martinez and Joe Hemschoot impressed at inside linebacker during spring drills.

The biggest question in the secondary is at free safety, but Stanford could get help here from Dallas Lloyd, a converted quarterback, or even cornerback Wayne Lyons.

Offensively, while Hogan continues to grow as a leader at quarterback and Montgomery

Difference-maker
Ty Montgomery, WR

On any given Saturday Montgomery is the most dangerous player on the field. A 6-2, 215-pound speedster with power and physicality, the senior ranked second nationally in yards per kick return (30.3) and was among the nation's top 10 in all-purpose yards per game (157.7). He also chipped in 10 touchdown receptions, which cracked the top 25. The Cardinal went 8-1 when he had 50-plus receiving yards.

MONTGOMERY: TONY AVELAR/AP

leads a deep, explosive group of receivers, it's running back where things could be a little different.

Stanford received a break last season when Tyler Gaffney returned from minor league baseball; it loaded up on him, and he rattled off 1,709 yards and 21 touchdowns. But the Cardinal could instead spread the load this time around among four promising options: Remound Wright, Barry Sanders Jr., Kelsey Young and Ricky Seale, who collectively give Stanford depth and versatility. Wright is a solid ballcarrier and pass protector, while Sanders (son of the NFL legend of the same name) has eye-opening quickness.

Then there's Young, an explosive converted receiver. Young benefited in the spring from taking reps in the absence of Wright, who was suspended for the second half of spring practice for an undisclosed disciplinary reason. Sanders took extra reps in his absence and led the Cardinal in rushing during the spring game.

If there's anywhere Stanford's formula for recruiting and developing replacements is really going to be tested, it's on the offensive line, where four new starters are needed. But the Cardinal has been grooming a big 2012 recruiting class of linemen for this moment, with players such as tackle Kyle Murphy, guard Johnny Caspers and center Graham Shuler already having experience and toughness. Then there's tackle Andrus Peat, the five-star anchor of the big 2012 lineman recruiting class. The 6-7, 312-pound son of a former NFL lineman, Peat is immensely talented and a likely high NFL draft pick in 2015.

BOTTOM LINE

The transition is heavy, but Stanford has been there before and there's enough talent to suggest that the level of play won't dip much. The problem is that the schedule allows almost zero breathing room. During league play, Stanford has byes instead of favorable games against Arizona and Colorado. And on the road, the Cardinal will have to play Washington, Notre Dame, Arizona State, Oregon and UCLA. But, as always, discounting Stanford comes at your own risk.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1 Solomon Thomas, DE ★★★★★
2 Keller Chryst, QB ★★★★★
3 Casey Tucker, OT ★★★★

The Cardinal finished with the No. 2 class in the Pac-12, No. 13 nationally and featured plenty of talent, highlighted by Thomas, who committed to Stanford out of Coppel, Texas, on Signing Day. Chryst is a local kid from Palo Alto who is the son of longtime NFL assistant and current San Francisco 49ers quarterback coach Geep Chryst. Keller, who turned down an offer to play for his uncle, Paul Chryst, the head coach at Pitt, has all the tools to be the next special quarterback at Stanford. Christian McCaffrey is the son of former Stanford and NFL receiver Ed McCaffrey and is an elite football player, one of the best at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl last January. It would not be a Stanford class without excellence on the offensive line, led by Tucker and Austin Hall out of Arizona and Reilly Gibbons, a former University of Miami commit from Florida. Several future NFL players are in this class.

HOGAN: MARK J. TERRILL / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Kevin Hogan	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	14	151.5	180-295-10	61.0	2630	20	187.9

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Kevin Hogan	14	84	355	4.2	2	25.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Ty Montgomery	14	61	958	15.7	10	68.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
A.J. Tarpley	14	52	41	93

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
James Vaughters	14	4.0	32

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Jordan Richards	3	55	18.3	1

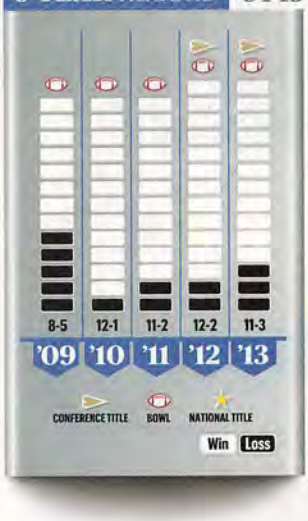
Kevin Hogan

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	STAN	OPP
SCORING	452	266
Points Per Game	32.3	19.0
FIRST DOWNS	263	280
Rushing	135	98
Passing	109	154
Penalty	19	28
RUSHING YARDAGE	2904	1251
Yards gained rushing	3104	1722
Yards lost rushing	200	471
Rushing Attempts	584	435
Average Per Rush	5.0	2.9
Average Per Game	207.4	89.4
TDs Rushing	30	8
PASSING YARDAGE	2771	3553
Comp-Att-Int	190-311-10	344-554-13
Average Per Pass	8.9	6.4
Average Per Catch	14.6	10.3
Average Per Game	197.9	253.8
TDs Passing	21	22
TOTAL OFFENSE	5675	4804
Total Plays	895	989
Average Per Play	6.3	4.9
Average Per Game	405.4	343.1
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	43-1178	57-1033
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	18-147	29-207
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-172	10-40
KICK RETURN AVG.	27.4	18.1
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.2	7.1
INT RETURN AVG.	13.2	4.0
FUMBLES-LOST	20-9	20-6
PENALTIES-YARDS	74-620	75-652
Average Per Game	44.3	46.6
PUNTS-YARDS	52-2230	74-2833
Average Per Punt	42.9	38.3
Net punt average	38.1	35.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:46	28:14
3RD-DOWN CONV.	98/197	64/199
3rd-Down Pct.	50%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/14	16/31
4th-Down Pct.	57%	52%
SACKS BY-YARDS	44-310	16-94
MISC YARDS	0	77
TDS SCORED	56	31
FG-ATTEMPTS	20-26	17-20
ATTENDANCE	355081	332772
Games/Avg Per Game	7/50726	6/55462
Neutral Site Games		1/95173

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Stanford	127	125	115	85	0	452
Opponent	60	57	57	92	0	266

5-YEAR RECORD 54-13



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB Kevin Hogan (6-4, 228, Sr.)
Evan Crower (6-5, 214, Sr.)
RB Remound Wright (5-9, 200, Sr.)
Barry Sanders Jr. (5-10, 192, Jr.)
FB Lee Ward (6-1, 245, Sr.)
Daniel Marx (6-2, 235, Fr.)
LT Andrus Peat (6-7, 312, Jr.)
Kyle Murphy (6-7, 295, Jr.)
LG Joshua Garnett (6-5, 316, Jr.)
Brendon Austin (6-6, 304, Sr.)
C Graham Shuler (6-4, 282, Jr.)
Kevin Reihner (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RG Johnny Caspers (6-4, 301, Jr.)
Joshua Garnett (6-5, 316, Jr.)
RT Kyle Murphy (6-7, 295, Jr.)
David Bright (6-5, 293, So.)
TE Eric Cotton (6-6, 242, So.)
Austin Hooper (6-4, 254, So.)
WR Michael Rector (6-1, 187, Jr.)
Francis Owusu (6-3, 210, So.)
WR Ty Montgomery (6-2, 215, Sr.)
Devon Cajuste (6-4, 228, Sr.)

Defense

DE Henry Anderson (6-6, 278, Sr.)
Aziz Shittu (6-3, 280, Jr.)
DT David Parry (6-2, 300, Sr.)
Anthony Hayes (6-3, 293, Sr.)
DE Blake Leuters (6-5, 260, Sr.)
Luke Kaumatule (6-7, 267, Jr.)
OLB Kevin Anderson (6-4, 250, Sr.)
Mike Tyler (6-5, 219, So.)
ILB A.J. Tarpley (6-2, 238, Sr.)
Joe Hemschoot (6-1, 225, Sr.)
ILB Blake Martinez (6-2, 234, Jr.)
Noor Davis (6-4, 235, Jr.)
OLB James Vaughters (6-2, 246, Sr.)
Peter Kalambayi (6-3, 236, So.)
CB Wayne Lyons (6-1, 196, Sr.)
Taijuan Thomas (5-10, 171, So.)
CB Alex Carter (6-0, 200, Jr.)
Ronnie Harris (5-10, 174, Sr.)
FS Kyle Olugbode (6-1, 205, Sr.)
Dallas Lloyd (6-3, 212, Jr.)
SS Jordan Richards (5-11, 208, Sr.)
Zach Hoffpauir (6-0, 193, Jr.)

Specialists

K Jordan Williamson (5-11, 192, Sr.)
P Ben Rhyne (6-2, 202, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

WASHINGTON HUSKIES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

PAC-12 NORTH

3

Hau'oli Kikaha

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ HAWAII	
S.6	Eastern Washington	
S.13	Illinois	34-24
S.20	Georgia State	
S.27	Stanford	28-31
O.11	@ CALIFORNIA	41-17
O.18	@ OREGON	24-45
O.25	Arizona State	24-53
N.1	@ COLORADO	59-7
N.8	UCLA	31-41
N.15	@ ARIZONA	31-13
N.22	Oregon State	69-27
N.29	@ WASHINGTON STATE	27-17

COACH

Chris Petersen

First year

Career record: 92-13

Offensive coordinator: Jonathan Smith (first year)

Defensive coordinator: Pete Kwiatkowski (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 9-4

(Beat BYU in the Fight Hunger Bowl, 31-16)

Stadium: Husky Stadium (70,138)

Tickets: 206-543-2200

Site: Seattle

Website: gohuskies.com

Twitter: @UW_Football

Steve Sarkisian's sudden jump to USC from Washington was the kind that normally burns bridges and destroys goodwill. But, hey, some folks were actually happy about it. Especially once Chris Petersen was hired to replace him.

While Sarkisian went just 34-29 at Washington, Petersen's perennial success on Boise State's blue carpet suggests better things are ahead. He spent the spring preaching chemistry, trust and discipline with his new team, while suspending quarterback Cyler Miles and receiver Damore'ea Stringfellow indefinitely after they were investigated for assault on Super Bowl Sunday.

Peterson says he won't update the situation until August camp opens, so the spring focused on whether Jeff Lindquist or Troy Williams would grasp the opportunity to replace the dynamic Keith Price under center. Neither one wound up really gaining much of an advantage, suggesting Miles can still claim it this fall if he's in good graces.

The well-liked Deontae Cooper is the most likely replacement for Washington's third all-time rusher, Bishop Sankey, but there's no warranty on his three ACL repairs. The Huskies' best option at running back might just be the dynamic Shaq Thompson, but he has full-time linebacker duties to worry about.

Kasen Williams returns from a broken leg to lead a strong group of receivers, but there won't be a way to easily create mismatches without Austin Seferian-Jenkins around at tight end; Michael Hartvigson is the likely replacement.

The lines on both sides are experienced and versatile, while defensive end Hau'oli Kikaha has put knee trouble behind him. There's not much depth at linebacker, and the fact that John Timu was investigated over stolen parking passes didn't help matters in the spring, when he was suspended for two weeks. Cornerback Jermaine Kelly is among the young standouts in the secondary.

Difference-maker

Hau'oli Kikaha, DE

The 6-3, 250-pound Kikaha redeemed a lost 2012 season with an all-conference performance in 2013. Teammates acknowledge the senior as being the first guy in and last one out of the weight room. That physical strength matches the mental strength he gained while recovering from two ACL tears in 2011-12—strength he used to amass 70 tackles and 13 sacks last season.

BOTTOM LINE

Petersen's transition may be more difficult off the field than on it. Despite the bigger spotlight and demands on him at UW, he was initially limited in interviews, and offered little transparency about his handling of Timu, Miles and Stringfellow. But, of course, winning can trump all of that. The Huskies should be able to do a fair amount of that in the fall.

5-YEAR RECORD 35-29

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Cyler Miles (6-4, 213, So.)
RB	Deontae Cooper (6-0, 201, Sr.)
LT	Micah Hatchie (6-5, 301, Sr.)
LG	Dexter Charles (6-5, 278, Jr.)
C	Mike Criste (6-6, 318, Sr.)
RG	James Atoe (6-7, 375, Sr.)
RT	Ben Riva (6-6, 300, Sr.)
TE	Michael Hartvigson (6-6, 255, Sr.)
WR	Jaydon Mickens (5-10, 170, Jr.)
WR	Kasen Williams (6-2, 212, Jr.)
WR	John Ross (5-11, 173, So.)

Defense

DE	Hau'oli Kikaha (6-3, 250, Sr.)
DT	Evan Hudson (6-5, 277, Sr.)
NT	Danny Shelton (6-1, 327, Sr.)
DE	Cory Littleton (6-3, 227, Jr.)
OLB	Travis Feeney (6-4, 217, Jr.)
MLB	John Timu (6-1, 244, Sr.)
OLB	Shaq Thompson (6-2, 225, Jr.)
CB	Marcus Peters (6-0, 198, Jr.)
CB	Jermaine Kelly (6-1, 188, Fr.)
FS	Brandon Beaver (6-0, 192, So.)
SS	Trevor Walker (5-11, 187, So.)

Specialists

K	Cameron Van Winkle (5-10, 173, So.)
P	Korey Durkee (6-4, 221, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

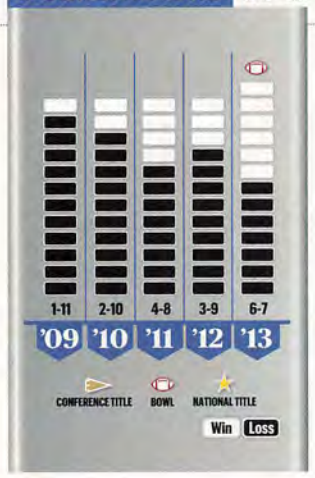
1. **Budda Baker,** ATH ★★★★
2. **K.J. Carta-Samuels,** QB ★★★★
3. **Kaleb McGary,** OT/DL ★★★★

New coach Chris Petersen and staff did an admirable job stepping in and landing the No. 7 class in the Pac-12 and No. 38 nationally, according to 247Sports. Baker (Oregon), Carta-Samuels (Vanderbilt) and four-star cornerback Naijiel Hale (Arizona) were all committed to other programs prior to flipping to the Huskies. Baker was an especially big get, as the dynamic playmaker from Bellevue High was the No. 1 prospect in the state of Washington for 2014. Keep an eye on safety Lavon Washington from Oakland, Calif. He's a potential big-timer who could surprise.

KIKAHA: ELAINE THOMPSON / AP

WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

5-YEAR RECORD 16-45



Connor Halliday

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

4

PAC-12 NORTH

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Connor Halliday (6-4, 197, Sr.)
RB	Theron West (5-7, 171, Sr.)
LT	Joe Dahl (6-4, 307, Jr.)
LG	Gunnar Eklund (6-7, 310, Jr.)
C	Sam Flor (6-4, 307, So.)
RG	Jacob Seydel (6-6, 298, Jr.)
RT	Cole Madison (6-5, 294, Fr.)
WR	Rickey Galvin (5-8, 171, Sr.)
WR	Gabe Marks (6-0, 179, Jr.)
WR	Vince Mayle (6-3, 219, Sr.)
WR	River Cracraft (6-0, 197, So.)

Defense

DE	Destiny Vaeao (6-4, 288, Jr.)
DT	Xavier Cooper (6-4, 298, Jr.)
NT	Kalafitoni Pole (6-1, 290, Sr.)
DE	Kache Palacio (6-2, 224, Jr.)
SLB	Cyrus Coen (6-0, 211, Sr.)
MLB	Darryl Monroe (6-1, 230, Jr.)
WLB	Tana Pritchard (6-3, 228, Jr.)
CB	Charleston White (5-10, 175, Fr.)
CB	Daquawn Brown (5-11, 170, So.)
S	Isaac Dotson (6-1, 206, So.)
S	Taylor Taliulu (5-11, 205, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Erik Powell (6-1, 181, Fr.)
P	Wes Concepcion (6-0, 187, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

247 STAR RATING

1. **Barry Ware,** WR ★★★
2. **Deion Singleton,** S ★★★
3. **Zaire Andre,** WR ★★★

In Ware, Andre and quarterback Peyton Bender, the Cougars have a potentially lethal trio in the passing game down the road—which has to be intriguing considering that coach Mike Leach's offensive system is designed to put up big numbers. Washington State does as well as any program in finding players out of American Samoa and outside linebacker Frank Luvu is this year's find—he has great potential. Do yourself a favor: Go online and watch the film of incoming defensive end Jalen Canty. The 6-8, 270-pound former hoops power forward has huge football potential and was a very resourceful signing.

Maybe a little tough love wasn't so bad after all. Following a combative debut season in 2012–during which he once suggested his Cougars were "bordering on cowardice"–coach Mike Leach found results. He guided Wazzu into its first bowl game in 10 years last season, and the Cougs have enough back this time to suggest that the momentum might be sustainable, too.

Quarterback Connor Halliday returns for a final season as the key to Leach's pass-first "Air Raid" scheme, having already set new school records for completions (449), attempts (714) and passing yards (4,597) last season. He has plenty of proven targets to throw to: River Cracraft, Gabe Marks, Dom Williams and Vince Mayle–the latter three each caught seven touchdown passes. Marks showed breakout potential but had a turbulent offseason–he was arrested for assault, trespassing and being an intoxicated minor–and was limited by a groin injury in spring drills. Mayle could lead the group, having reinvented himself by dropping about 20 pounds off his 6-3 frame to get down to 219.

Running back Marcus Mason led the Cougs in rushing (429 yards) and finished second in receptions (52 for 390 yards) last season, but Theron West is threatening to jump ahead of him this season. On the offensive line, three starters were lost but the replacements are experienced.

Washington State returns seven starters from a defense that forced 30 turnovers last season, second most in the Pac-12, and the Cougars should be able to put even more pressure on quarterbacks now. Among the leaders: tackles Kalafitoni Pole and Xavier Cooper, who led the Cougs with 13.5 tackles for loss, and middle linebacker Darryl Monroe (94 tackles).

But the secondary is woefully inexperienced. It'll help if converted wide receiver Sebastian LaRue can make an impact at corner.

Difference-Maker

Connor Halliday, QB

Halliday set single-season Pac-12 records in attempts (714) and completions (449) last season. If not for the extraordinary campaign turned in by Oregon State QB Sean Mannion, the 6-4, 197-pound Halliday would have also owned the passing-yardage record, as he threw for 4,597. His production alone could not save the Cougars from a losing season, but he returns as their best bet for Pac-12 ascension.

BOTTOM LINE

Washington State doubled its win total to six last season and that kind of trajectory isn't likely to continue. But the Cougars should be at least as good. A relatively soft early schedule coupled with missing UCLA in conference play suggests Washington State can get bowl-eligible again, and maybe even win this time, after Colorado State edged Wazzu in the New Mexico Bowl.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Rutgers*	
S.5	@ NEVADA	
S.13	Portland State	
S.20	Oregon	38-62
S.27	@ UTAH	49-37
O.4	California	44-22
O.10	@ STANFORD	17-55
O.25	Arizona	24-17
N.1	USC	10-7
N.8	@ OREGON STATE	24-52
N.22	@ ARIZONA STATE	21-55
N.29	Washington	17-27

* At Seattle, WA

COACH

Mike Leach

Third year (9-16)

Career record: 93-59

Offensive coordinator: Mike Leach

Defensive coordinator: Mike Breske (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 6-7

(Lost to Colorado State in the New Mexico Bowl, 48-45)

Stadium: Martin Stadium (32,740)

Tickets: 800-GO-COUGS

Site: Pullman, Wash.

Website: wsucougars.com

Twitter: @wsucougfb

HALLIDAY: MATT YORK / AP

OREGON STATE BEAVERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH **5**

PAC-12 NORTH

Sean Mannion

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Portland State	
S.6	@ HAWAII	33-14
S.20	San Diego State	34-30
S.27	@ USC	14-31
O.4	@ COLORADO	44-17
O.16	Utah	51-48
O.25	@ STANFORD	12-20
N.1	California	49-17
N.8	Washington State	52-24
N.15	Arizona State	17-30
N.22	@ WASHINGTON	27-69
N.29	Oregon	35-36

COACH

Mike Riley
14th year (88-73)
Career record: 88-73

Offensive coordinator: John Garrett (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Mark Banker (12th year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Beat Boise State in the Hawaii Bowl, 38-23)
Stadium: Reser Stadium (45,674)
Tickets: 1-800-GO-BEAVS
Site: Corvallis, Ore.
Website: osubeavers.com
Twitter: @OSUBeaversFB

Already the Pac-12's 10th-leading passer of all time, Sean Mannion is just 1,839 yards away from pushing aside Matt Barkley for the No. 1 spot. But he might have to slow that dizzying pace a bit as a senior this season.

Mannion won't be able to just toss it to Brandin Cooks, the Biletnikoff Award winner who left early for the NFL Draft. What's more, his offensive coordinator, Danny Langsdorf, took off for a quarterback-coach job with the New York Giants.

Instead, the Beavers have a new OC in John Garrett and a bunch of unproven receivers, none of who immediately impressed during spring drills. Oregon State is hoping somebody emerges among Richard Mullaney, speedy Victor Bolden and athletic slot Malik Gilmore.

But Mannion does have this: The experience and knowledge that he will be the uncontested leader and starting quarterback.

Cooks' Pac-12-record 128 receptions helped gloss over a tepid rushing attack, so the Beavers are hoping experienced backs Storm Woods and Terron Ward can be more productive now. The offensive line was shaky in the spring, though, so much so that athletic tight end Dustin Stanton gave left tackle a shot, but he's only 255 pounds.

Defensively, the big loss was end Scott Crichton, who left as a junior but was already fourth in school history in tackles for a loss. But OSU is bringing in well-regarded juco tackle Kyle Peko, and end Dylan Wynn returns with the most starts on the team (32). The Beavers are deep and experienced at linebacker. Jabral Johnson took advantage of an injury to outside man Michael Doctor last season, recording OSU's second-most tackles (94), and is moving to the middle.

The Beavers need help at corner but, on his way out, Cooks may have helped develop one. Then-freshman Dashon Hunt, who redshirted last season after suffering pneumonia early, benefited from lining up against Cooks in practice every day.

Difference-maker

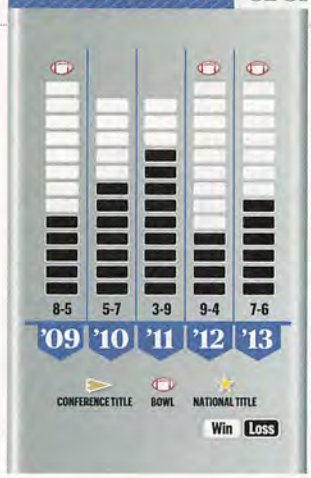
Sean Mannion, QB

Mannion heard a lot of Heisman talk last year while he was putting together a season for the ages—a Pac-12 single-season-record 4,662 yards passing and a school-record 37 touchdowns—incredible numbers given the league's history of elite quarterback play. The 6-5, 220-pound senior decided on one more year in Corvallis, signifying great intentions for a 7-6 OSU squad that finished in the bottom half of the conference in 2013 despite his efforts.

BOTTOM LINE

For a team that isn't blessed with obvious talent, losing explosive playmakers Cooks and Crichton is huge. And those guys played for a team that lost five straight late last season, barely recovering for a Hawaii Bowl win against Boise State. But Mannion's poise and determination can't be discounted.

5-YEAR RECORD 32-31



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Sean Mannion (6-5, 220, Sr.)
RB	Storm Woods (6-0, 211, Jr.)
LT	Dustin Stanton (6-4, 255, So.)
LG	Sean Harlow (6-4, 288, So.)
C	Isaac Seumalo (6-4, 297, Jr.)
RG	Grant Bays (6-3, 285, So.)
RT	Gavin Andrews (6-5, 340, Jr.)
TE	Connor Hamlett (6-7, 265, Sr.)
WR	Richard Mullaney (6-3, 199, Jr.)
WR	Malik Gilmore (6-3, 210, So.)
WR	Victor Bolden (5-9, 172, So.)

Defense

DE	Jaswha James (6-2, 250, Jr.)
DT	Jalen Grimble (6-2, 300, Jr.)
DT	Kyle Peko (6-2, 300, Jr.)
DE	Dylan Wynn (6-2, 270, Sr.)
OLB	D.J. Alexander (6-2, 222, Sr.)
MLB	Jabral Johnson (6-1, 230, Sr.)
OLB	Michael Doctor (6-0, 227, Sr.)
CB	Steven Nelson (5-11, 195, Sr.)
CB	Larry Scott (5-11, 195, Jr.)
SS	Tyrequek Zimmerman (6-0, 211, Sr.)
FS	Ryan Murphy (6-3, 213, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Trevor Romaine (6-0, 196, Sr.)
P	Keith Kostol (6-4, 201, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

247 STAR RATING

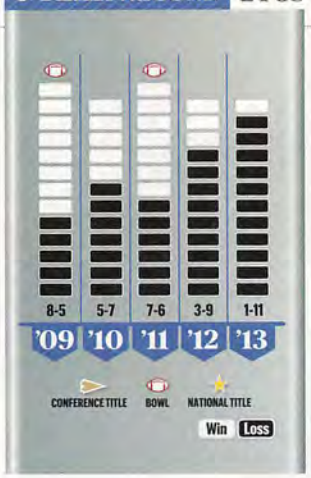
1. **Datrin Guyton,** WR ★★★
2. **Kalani Vakameilalo,** DT ★★★
3. **Demarlon Morris,** CB ★★★

This Beavers' class ranked No. 9 in the Pac-12, No. 61 nationally and is yet another resourceful haul for coach Mike Riley and company—one of the true sleeper classes in the country. Guyton is a bit underrated at three stars (per 247Sports Composite rankings) and the 6-3, 195-pounder from Manor, Texas, could make an immediate impact. Ryan Nall from Portland Central Catholic was one of the best all-around prep football players in Oregon as a senior. Chances are he's a linebacker, but he's good enough to play other spots, as is 6-5, 200-pound athlete Tanner Sanders, a hometown kid from Corvallis.

MANNION: EUGENE TANNER / AP

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

5-YEAR RECORD 24-38



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Jared Goff (6-4, 195, So.)
RB	Daniel Lasco (6-0, 210, Jr.)
LT	Steven Moore (6-6, 295, So.)
LG	Chris Borrayo (6-3, 310, So.)
C	Jordan Rigsbee (6-4, 315, Jr.)
RG	Alejandro Crosthwaite (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RT	Brian Farley (6-7, 285, Jr.)
WR	Chris Harper (5-11, 170, Jr.)
WR	Kenny Lawler (6-3, 190, So.)
WR	Bryce Treggs (5-11, 185, Jr.)
WR	Darius Powe (6-3, 220, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Kyle Kragen (6-2, 240, Sr.)
DT	Mustafa Jalil (6-3, 305, Jr.)
DT	Harrison Wilfley (6-5, 265, Sr.)
DE	Brennan Scarlett (6-4, 265, Jr.)
OLB	Jalen Jefferson (6-2, 220, Jr.)
MLB	Michael Barton (6-0, 230, So.)
OLB	Maximo Espitia (6-2, 215, Jr.)
CB	Darius Allensworth (5-11, 185, Fr.)
CB	Cameron Walker (5-10, 180, So.)
S	Avery Sebastian (5-10, 195, Jr.)
S	Stefan McClure (5-11, 200, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Noah Bieto (6-0, 190, So.)
P	Cole Leininger (6-1, 200, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Erik Brown,** WR ★★★★
2. **Devante Downs,** RB/LB ★★★
3. **Chandler Leniu,** LB ★★★

The Golden Bears struggled on the field last season, finishing 1-11, but given that set of circumstances, finishing this recruiting cycle No. 8 in the Pac-12 and No. 48 nationally was not a bad effort. Brown, who's 6-1 and 170 pounds with speed, is a great fit in Cal's system. Downs' upside for the NFL is likely at linebacker, but he could be a 6-3, 230-pound running back for the Bears. He did suffer a knee injury his senior season, though, so he has to get healthy. Quarterback Luke Rubenzer stands only 5-11, but turned heads at the Elite 11 quarterback camp finals and is a good fit for Cal's offense.

Jared Goff

Sonny Dykes' debut in Berkeley last season couldn't have played out much worse. While trying to inject life into a stagnant program with a fast-paced, no-huddle offense–and limited talent–the Bears suffered a rash of key injuries that sent them backwards. Their only win came against Portland State and the Pac-12 numbers were brutal: Cal was last in scoring offense (23.0 ppg), scoring defense (45.9) and a whole bunch of other categories. Not a single one of its players made the All-Pac-12 first teams or second teams for offense or defense.

If health holds up this time, there should be room for improvement. The offensive line can go seven or eight deep instead of just the three or four it could trust last season, and the running backs should be better equipped to help provide the balanced attack Dykes prefers. Projected starter Daniel Lasco has returned from a shoulder injury and incoming freshman Tre Watson put up obscene high school rushing numbers.

While Cal is hoping not to average the 52 passes a game it did last season, when it does throw there are reliable wideouts to look for in All-America candidate Chris Harper, Bryce Treggs and Darius Powe.

Defensively, injuries rendered the Bears especially hapless last season. Four key players missed nearly all season, including promising rush end Brennan Scarlett and tackle Mustafa Jalil. The secondary was equally damaged when safety Avery Sebastian went down in the first game of the season, and when the other starter at the position, Stefan McClure, hurt his knee early in Pac-12 play. But Cal enters the fall much healthier and the linebacking corps should be stronger now that Maximo Espitia has shown promise and good instincts there after trying a number of other positions.

Dykes turned the defense over to new coordinator Art Kaufman, who will be making his fourth coaching stop in four years. Kaufman is keeping Cal's 4-3 defense but adding some different fronts on occasion.

Difference-maker

Jared Goff, QB

In a forgettable year for Cal, the 6-4 freshman showed he belonged in the Pac-12, obliterating school single-season passing records for yards, completions and attempts. Goff's season ended a little early thanks to a separated throwing shoulder in the season finale. After successful surgery, the Bears expect him to be healthy enough to lift them well past last year's 1-11 record.

BOTTOM LINE

If their health holds up, the Bears will be better. But that won't likely translate into wins, considering Cal's schedule. The best the Bears can hope for is to win three or four games before October, with Sacramento State and Colorado coming to Berkeley early, then hang on for dear life the rest of the way.

6 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
PAC-12 NORTH

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ NORTHWESTERN	30-44
S.6	Sacramento State	
S.20	@ ARIZONA	28-33
S.27	Colorado	24-41
O.4	@ WASHINGTON STATE	22-44
O.11	Washington	17-41
O.18	UCLA	10-37
O.24	Oregon*	16-55
N.1	@ OREGON STATE	17-49
N.13	@ USC	28-62
N.22	Stanford	13-63
N.29	BYU	

* At Santa Clara, CA

COACH

Sonny Dykes
Second year (1-11)
Career record: 23-26

Offensive coordinator: Tony Franklin (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Art Kaufman (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 1-11
Stadium: Memorial Stadium (62,467)
Tickets: 800-GO-BEARS
Site: Berkeley, Calif.
Website: calbears.com
Twitter: @CalFootball

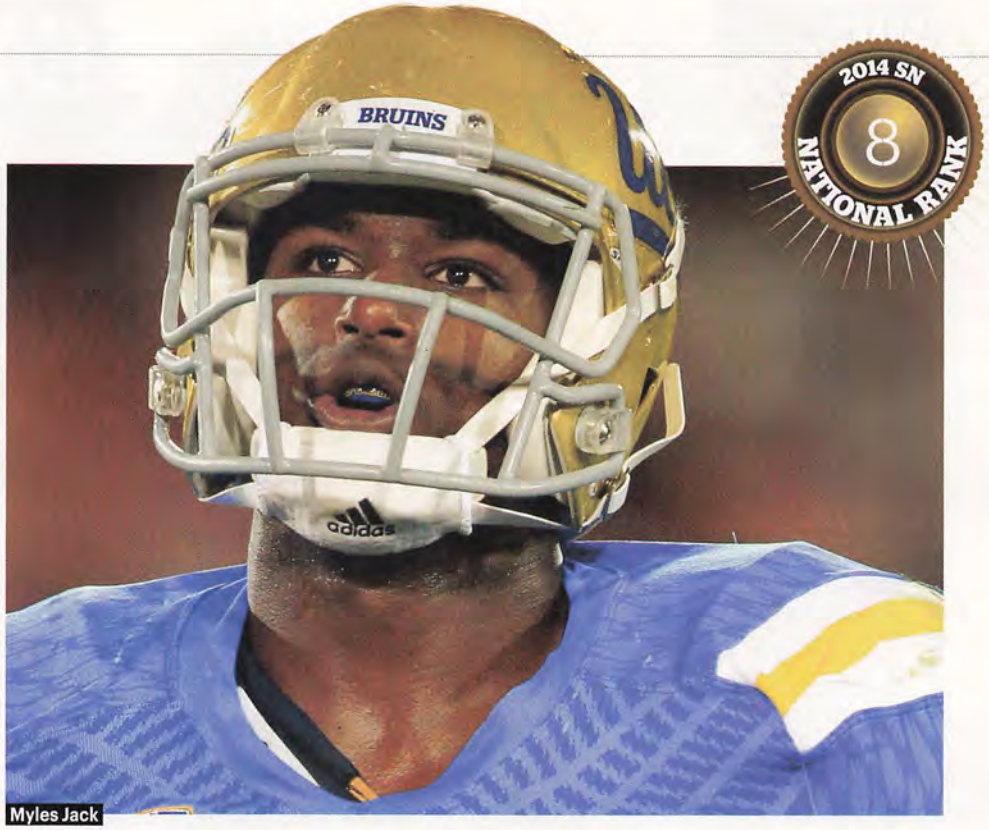
GOFF: ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

UCLA BRUINS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

PAC-12 SOUTH

1



Myles Jack

2014 SN NATIONAL RANK 8

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ VIRGINIA	
S.6	Memphis	
S.13	Texas*	
S.25	@ ARIZONA STATE	33-38
O.4	Utah	34-27
O.11	Oregon	14-42
O.18	@ CALIFORNIA	37-10
O.25	@ COLORADO	45-23
N.1	Arizona	31-26
N.8	@ WASHINGTON	41-31
N.22	USC	35-14
N.28	Stanford	10-24

* At Arlington, TX

COACH

Jim Mora
Third year (19-8)
Career record: 19-8

Offensive coordinator: Noel Mazzone (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Jeff Ulbrich (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 10-3
(Beat Virginia Tech in the Sun Bowl, 42-12)
Stadium: Rose Bowl (91,136)
Tickets: 310-UCLA-WIN
Site: Los Angeles
Website: uclabruins.com
Twitter: @UCLAFootball

Two wins in a row over a troubled USC program proves at least for now, as coach Jim Mora says, that UCLA "owns L.A." As if to drive that point home, the Bruins even announced a six-year contract extension for Mora on the same day that USC was introducing Steve Sarkisian across town as its new coach.

The question now is whether UCLA can move on to bigger and better things. Like owning the Pac-12, or even the country. After winning 19 games over the past two years, the Bruins have the momentum and returning talent to suggest another step forward is likely.

UCLA returns 15 starters overall, most notably All-America candidate Brett Hundley, who gave up a possible first-round NFL draft selection to come back and take a shot at the Heisman.

Hundley's numbers were impressive across the board last season. He completed 66.8 percent of his passes for 3,071 yards and 24 touchdowns while rushing for 748 more yards, the third-highest ever by a Bruin quarterback.

But on top of Hundley's skill improvement, he has also taken charge of the Bruins, asserting himself more often last season as injuries limited UCLA.

Hundley has plenty of tools around him again. UCLA returns its top four total offense leaders, five of its top six receivers and seven offensive starters overall. The line has five players with significant starting experience, with junior center Jake Brendel having started all 27 games over the past two seasons.

Depth is so good at UCLA that the departure of top receiver Shaq Evans will likely be compensated by Devin Lucien, Jordan Payton and versatile talent Devin Fuller returning. Freshman Mossi Johnson is likely to make an impact, too.

Similarly, the offensive line is expected to survive the loss of second-team All-American Xavier Su'a-Filo and the fact that offensive tackle Torian White was dismissed. That's because they have four lineman who have started, plus versatile tackle Malcolm Bunche, a graduate transfer from Miami (Fla.) who is

Difference-maker

Myles Jack, LB/RB

With 75 tackles and seven for loss, the 6-1, 230-pound Jack showed he is strong enough to muscle offensive linemen and quick enough to cover receivers in 11 starts at linebacker. But when forced into double duty at running back after several UCLA rushers went down, those qualities helped him average seven yards a carry and score seven touchdowns. The reigning Pac-12 Offensive and Defensive Freshman of the Year likely won't run the ball much anymore, but with 267 rushing yards in four games, including one start in the backfield, he's a nice backup plan for the Bruins' offense.

JACK: MARK J. TERRILL / AP

immediately eligible.

While Sarkisian took some recruiting momentum away from Mora on signing day, the Bruins still put together a solid 2014 class that includes linebacker Zach Whitley, who flipped a longtime commitment to Alabama.

Whitley will join a crew that will have to overcome the loss of first-team All-American Anthony Barr, and he could even push for time right away at inside linebacker, where he and Isaako Savaiinaea are vying to replace Jordan Zumwalt.

As electric as linebacker Myles Jack was on both sides of the ball, becoming the first-ever Pac-12 player to win both the conference's defensive and offensive freshman of the year, coaches are now pushing for him to stay on the defensive side most of the time. It's tempting to put him everywhere, of course: Jack rushed for four touchdowns against Washington and played solely on offense in a late-season loss to Arizona State.

Jack is one of eight starters on defense that are back for UCLA, while end Owamagbe Odighizuwa is expected to start after hip issues forced a redshirt season.

In the secondary, UCLA returns three players–safeties Anthony Jefferson and Randall Goforth and cornerback Fabian Moreau–who were honorable mention All-Pac-12 picks. A fourth starter, junior corner Ishmael Adams, was also a shifty return man at 5-8, gaining 234 return yards against Arizona State.

Also on special teams, kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn hit 18 straight field goal attempts from within 35 yards and punter Sean Covington averaged 41.9 yards and earned Pac-12 honorable mention honors.

BOTTOM LINE

Mora's goal has been to compete for a national championship within five years, and he could do it in year three. At the least, UCLA should capture the Pac-12 South, if it can win at Arizona State early in conference play. They'll get Stanford at home on the final day of the regular season and could see the Cardinal or Oregon in the conference title game. It may not be clear until then how good the Bruins can really be.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

This UCLA class was not large in numbers (18), but it features plenty of talent. Whitley flipped from Alabama and then enrolled early. Whitley, New Orleans prospect Kenny Young and local product Dwight Williams give the Bruins a talented trio of linebackers. Matt Dickerson is a potential difference-maker at defensive tackle and flipped from Notre Dame. Wadood is an outstanding safety who should have a great career in Westwood. Running back Nathan Starks, who transferred from Bishop Gorman (Las Vegas) to Cherry Creek in Colorado his senior year and did not play much, was a steal, as was offensive tackle Kolton Miller. This class was No. 19 nationally and the Bruins will likely rank higher in 2015 when at least early on it looks like they and rival USC will split up a loaded Los Angeles area for the coming cycle.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Zach Whitley, LB ★★★★
2. Jaleel Wadood, S ★★★★
3. Adarius Pickett, CB ★★★★

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Brett Hundley	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	152.9	248-371-9	66.8	3071	24	236.2

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Brett Hundley	13	160	748	4.7	11	57.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Devin Fuller	12	43	471	11.0	4	39.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Eric Kendricks	11	62	44	106

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Ellis McCarthy	13	2.0	13
Kenny Orjioke	13	2.0	11
Eric Kendricks	11	2.0	9

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Ishmael Adams	4	52	13.0	0

Brett Hundley

HUNDLEY: DEAN HARE / AP

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	UCLA	OPP
SCORING	480	301
Points Per Game	36.9	23.2
FIRST DOWNS	303	292
Rushing	135	123
Passing	145	139
Penalty	23	30
RUSHING YARDAGE	2556	2187
Yards gained rushing	2927	2558
Yards lost rushing	371	371
Rushing Attempts	566	554
Average Per Rush	4.5	3.9
Average Per Game	196.6	168.2
TDs Rushing	36	19
PASSING YARDAGE	3269	2830
Comp-Att-Int	265-392-9	266-436-14
Average Per Pass	8.3	6.5
Average Per Catch	12.3	10.6
Average Per Game	251.5	217.7
TDs Passing	25	16
TOTAL OFFENSE	5825	5017
Total Plays	958	990
Average Per Play	6.1	5.1
Average Per Game	448.1	385.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	47-1168	46-859
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	26-232	16-63
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	14-230	9-164
KICK RETURN AVG.	24.9	18.7
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.9	3.9
INT RETURN AVG.	16.4	18.2
FUMBLES-LOST	25-7	26-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	105-950	82-743
Average Per Game	73.1	57.2
PUNTS-YARDS	55-2292	74-2932
Average Per Punt	41.7	39.6
Net punt average	39.4	35.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:04	30:56
3RD-DOWN CONV.	95/193	68/195
3rd-Down Pct.	49%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/12	11/23
4th-Down Pct.	42%	48%
SACKS BY-YARDS	32-214	36-203
MISC YARDS	12	0
TDS SCORED	63	37
FG-ATTEMPTS	14-21	14-21
ATTENDANCE	421711	384941
Games/Avg Per Game	6/70285	6/64157
Neutral Site Games		1/47912

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
UCLA	106	121	126	127	0	480
Opponent	75	92	44	90	0	301

5-YEAR RECORD 36-30

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Brett Hundley (6-3, 227, Jr.)
	Jerry Neuheisel (6-1, 195, So.)
RB	Jordon James (5-9, 196, Sr.)
	Paul Perkins (5-11, 200, So.)
LT	Caleb Benenoch (6-5, 310, So.)
	Simon Goines (6-7, 330, Jr.)
LG	Scott Quessenberry (6-4, 282, So.)
	Ben Wysocki (6-4, 292, Jr.)
C	Jake Brendel (6-4, 285, Jr.)
	Carl Hulick (6-2, 275, So.)
RG	Alex Redmond (6-5, 300, So.)
	Kenny Lacy (6-4, 280, Fr.)
RT	Malcolm Bunche (6-6, 320, Sr.)
	Poasi Moala (6-4, 278, Fr.)
WR	Devin Lucien (6-1, 200, Jr.)
	Darren Andrews (5-10, 190, So.)
WR	Thomas Duarte (6-3, 225, So.)
	Jalen Ortiz (5-9, 180, So.)
WR	Devin Fuller (6-0, 198, Jr.)
	Kenneth Walker (5-10, 180, So.)
WR	Jordan Payton (6-1, 215, Jr.)
	Eldridge Massington (6-3, 210, Fr.)

Defense

DE	Owamagbe Odighizuwa (6-3, 270, Sr.)
	Ellis McCarthy (6-5, 330, Jr.)
DT	Kenny Clark (6-3, 315, So.)
	Eli Ankou (6-3, 295, So.)
DE	Eddie Vanderdoes (6-3, 310, So.)
	Kylie Fitts (6-4, 275, So.)
LB	Myles Jack (6-1, 230, So.)
	Deon Hollins (6-0, 225, So.)
LB	Jayon Brown (6-0, 220, So.)
	Ryan Hofmeister (6-0, 220, Sr.)
LB	Eric Kendricks (6-0, 230, Sr.)
	Isaako Savaiinaea (6-2, 232, So.)
LB	Kenny Orjioke (6-4, 235, Jr.)
	Zach Whitley (6-1, 218, Fr.)
CB	Ishmael Adams (5-8, 185, Jr.)
	Marcus Rios (6-0, 170, So.)
CB	Fabian Moreau (6-0, 200, Jr.)
	Priest Willis (6-1, 206, So.)
S	Anthony Jefferson (6-1, 190, Sr.)
	Tyler Foreman (6-1, 195, Fr.)
S	Randall Goforth (5-10, 180, Jr.)
	Tahaan Goodman (6-1, 198, So.)

Specialists

K	Ka'imi Fairbairn (6-0, 190, Jr.)
P	Sean Covington (6-0, 218, So.)

Sporting News All-American

ARIZONA STATE
SUN DEVILS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
PAC-12 SOUTH
2

Taylor Kelly

2014 SN 13 NATIONAL RANK

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Weber State	
S.6	@ NEW MEXICO	
S.13	@ COLORADO	54-13
S.25	UCLA	38-33
O.4	@ USC	62-41
O.18	Stanford	14-38
O.25	@ WASHINGTON	53-24
N.1	Utah	20-19
N.8	Notre Dame	34-37
N.15	@ OREGON STATE	30-17
N.22	Washington State	55-21
N.28	@ ARIZONA	58-21

COACH
Todd Graham
Third year (18-9)
Career record: 67-38

Offensive coordinator: Mike Norvell (third year)
Defensive coordinators: Keith Patterson (first year)
Chris Ball (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 10-4
(Lost to Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl, 37-23)
Stadium: Sun Devil Stadium (71,706)
Tickets: 480-727-0000
Site: Tempe, Ariz.
Website: thesundevils.com
Twitter: @FootballASU

With prolific quarterback Taylor Kelly and dynamic running back D.J. Foster returning to a talented, high-octane offense that averaged 39.7 points last season, the Sun Devils have the potential to score on every possession.

However, they just might need to do exactly that.

In coach Todd Graham's third season, the Sun Devils must replace two-time Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year Will Sutton and eight other starters on the defensive side.

In other words, the defense has been completely blown up. Sutton's productivity slipped a bit last season but he was still an undeniable force at defensive tackle while attracting double teams, and five of the other eight departing defensive starters earned first- or second-team All-Pac-12 honors. Among them: end/linebacker Carl Bradford, linebacker Chris Young, and defensive backs Alden Darby, Robert Nelson and Osahon Irabor, who had started 47 straight games.

To help ease that drastic transition, Graham brought in seven junior-college transfers. Of them, Darrius Caldwell, once a commit for South Carolina, could take over Bradford's spot as the hybrid end/linebacker. At cornerback, Kweishi Brown is expected to start and one-time Auburn commit Dalvon Stuckey could push Jaxon Hood for time at defensive tackle.

Difference-maker
Taylor Kelly, QB

Kelly has spent the last two seasons blitzing the ASU passing records. Last year he threw for 3,635 yards, good for second all-time for a single Sun Devil season. In 2012 and '13 he threw for 28 and 29 touchdowns, respectively. A similar senior campaign will give him the school's career mark for TD passes.

There also should be help from a true freshman in DJ Calhoun, who skipped his final semester of high school to quickly stand out at weakside linebacker in spring practices. Among the starting safeties should be redshirt freshman Marcus Ball, and the two returning starters are strongside linebacker Salamo Fiso and free safety Damarious Randall.

While Graham is famously hands-on with his defenses, he brought in longtime coaching friend Keith Patterson as co-defensive coordinator to help, too.

On the offensive side, life should be much

KELLY: RICK SCUTERI / AP

easier for Graham. Just putting the ball in Kelly's hands usually works out pretty well: The senior quarterback averaged 259.6 yards per game last season, with 28 touchdowns and 12 interceptions. He also averaged 6.7 yards per carry on non-sacks, putting up 608 net rushing yards.

Behind Kelly, the Sun Devils are lucky that Mike Bercovici likes school enough to keep sticking around. The strong-armed Bercovici is good enough to start for many Pac-12 teams, and the fact that he graduated in the spring meant he could have gone elsewhere and played right away–but he chose to remain behind Kelly with a chance to start for his final season in 2015. Naturally a traditional pocket passer, Bercovici has worked on mobility in an effort to better fit in the ASU system.

The Sun Devils have five or six capable running backs to turn to, but Foster is the engine. Foster lined up at running back and receiver last season and he combined for 1,170 yards last season (501 on the ground. 653 by air and 16 on kick returns), earning at least 12 yards on 25 plays. This season, he's expected to line up fulltime in the backfield, which won't be easy for a 5-11 guy in the Pac-12, but he spent the offseason bulking up to withstand the increased punishment.

At receiver, second-team All-Pac-12 pick Jaelen Strong will be joined by Eric Lauderdale, one of of the nation's top junior-college receivers last season.

On the line, the Sun Devils are also in good shape. Especially on the left side, where they moved Jamil Douglas from left guard to left tackle in order to make room for Christian Westerman, a transfer from Auburn. Center Nick Kelly is strong and tough, and the line should give Kelly and Foster plenty of breathing room.

BOTTOM LINE

While ASU will routinely score in the 40s as it did last season, the difference is that the other team might too. That makes the potential victory margin a lot slimmer, so winning will require some quick adjusting from a lot of defensive newcomers who weren't even around for spring ball.

It won't be easy for the Sun Devils. But it should be fun to watch whatever happens.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Arizona State finished with the No. 23 class nationally and there are plenty of potential difference-makers.

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Derik Calhoun,** LB ★★★★
2. **Tyler Whiley,** WR ★★★★
3. **Jalen Harvey,** WR ★★★★

Calhoun was a U.S. Army All-American and is one of the more instinctive linebackers in the country. Whiley and Harvey combine with junior-college star Eric Lauderdale (a Georgia native the Sun Devils beat Florida for) to form a stellar trio of receivers. Manny Wilkins is a dynamic dual-threat QB and Colorado athlete Kalen Ballage is a 6-2, 215-pounder with speed who could project at several different positions. Help arrives aplenty on the defensive line from the junior-college ranks—Dalvon Stuckey (who began his career at Florida State), Edmond Boateng and Darrius Caldwell can all play right away. Watch out for in-state linebacker Ismael Murphy-Richardson down the road. He could develop into something special.

STRONG: RICK SCUTERI / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Taylor Kelly	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	14	139.6	302-484-12	62.4	3635	28	259.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Taylor Kelly	14	173	608	3.5	9	43.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jaelen Strong	14	75	1122	15.0	7	80.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Salamo Fiso	14	48	23	71
Damarious Randall	12	48	23	71

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Salamo Fiso	14	3.0	26

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Damarious Randall	3	90	30.0	1

Jaelen Strong

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	ARIZ ST	OPP
SCORING	556	373
Points Per Game	39.7	26.6
FIRST DOWNS	340	243
Rushing	147	94
Passing	165	135
Penalty	28	14
RUSHING YARDAGE	2679	1927
Yards gained rushing	3086	2346
Yards lost rushing	407	419
Rushing Attempts	608	497
Average Per Rush	4.4	3.9
Average Per Game	191.4	137.6
TDs Rushing	36	21
PASSING YARDAGE	3723	3286
Comp-Att-Int	309-494-12	249-445-21
Average Per Pass	7.5	7.4
Average Per Catch	12.0	13.2
Average Per Game	265.9	234.7
TDs Passing	28	24
TOTAL OFFENSE	6402	5213
Total Plays	1102	942
Average Per Play	5.8	5.5
Average Per Game	457.3	372.4
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	45-970	64-1365
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	36-206	19-191
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	21-345	12-107
KICK RETURN AVG.	21.6	21.3
PUNT RETURN AVG.	5.7	10.1
INT RETURN AVG.	16.4	8.9
FUMBLES-LOST	13-6	22-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	56-439	92-793
Average Per Game	31.4	56.6
PUNTS-YARDS	65-2428	80-3365
Average Per Punt	37.4	42.1
Net punt average	33.2	38.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:21	29:39
3RD-DOWN CONV.	84/215	79/213
3rd-Down Pct.	39%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	15/25	13/22
4th-Down Pct.	60%	59%
SACKS BY-YARDS	40-261	41-228
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	69	48
FG-ATTEMPTS	25-30	14-21
ATTENDANCE	505096	186355
Games/Avg Per Game	8/63137	4/46589
Neutral Site Games		2/59945

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Arizona State	133	192	99	132	0	556
Opponent	70	115	109	79	0	373

5-YEAR RECORD 34-30

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Taylor Kelly (6-2, 211, Sr.)
	Mike Bercovici (6-1, 203, Jr.)
RB	D.J. Foster (5-11, 194, Sr.)
	Deantre Lewis (5-11, 194, Sr.)
LT	Jamil Douglas (6-4, 301, Sr.)
	Evan Goodman (6-4, 311, So.)
LG	Christian Westerman (6-4, 304, Jr.)
	Stephon McCray (6-3, 313, So.)
C	Nick Kelly (6-2, 296, Jr.)
	Stephon McCray (6-3, 313, So.)
RG	Vi Teofilo (6-3, 303, Jr.)
	Devin Goodman (6-1, 290, Jr.)
RT	Tyler Sulka (6-5, 294, Sr.)
	William McGehee (6-6, 305, Jr.)
TE	De'Marieya Nelson (6-3, 224, Sr.)
	Grant Martinez (6-4, 220, Fr.)
WR	Jaelen Strong (6-3, 212, Jr.)
	Ellis Jefferson (6-4, 209, Fr.)
WR	Eric Lauderdale (6-2, 195, Jr.)
	Cameron Smith (5-11, 187, So.)
WR	Frederick Gammage (5-10, 187, So.)
	Ronald Lewis (6-0, 188, Fr.)

Defense

DE	Marcus Hardison (6-5, 298, Sr.)
	Edmond Boateng (6-4, 267, So.)
NT	Mo Latu (6-3, 384, Jr.)
	Zach Abdorrahimzadeh (6-2, 280, Jr.)
DT	Jaxon Hood (6-0, 299, Jr.)
	Dalvon Stuckey (6-3, 308, Jr.)
DEVIL	Darrius Caldwell (6-6, 235, Jr.)
	Eriquel Florence (6-1, 253, Jr.)
SPUR	Viliami Moeakiola (6-0, 211, So.)
	Marcus Washington (6-0, 220, Sr.)
SAM	Salamo Fiso (6-0, 236, So.)
	Alani Latu (6-2, 236, Fr.)
WILL	DJ Calhoun (6-0, 205, Fr.)
	Antonio Longino (6-2, 235, Jr.)
CB	Kweishi Brown (6-0, 198, Jr.)
	Rashad Wadood (5-11, 184, So.)
CB	Lloyd Carrington (6-1, 185, So.)
	Solomon Means (6-1, 174, Jr.)
SS	Marcus Ball (6-3, 216, Fr.)
	Jordan Simone (6-0, 190, Jr.)
FS	Damarious Randall (5-11, 178, So.)
	James Johnson (6-2, 198, Fr.)

Specialists

K	Zane Gonzalez (6-1, 184, So.)
P	Matt Haack (6-1, 195, So.)

Sporting News All-American

USC TROJANS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

PAC-12 SOUTH

3

Nelson Agholor

Steve Sarkisian wanted to go home. USC wanted stability and positive vibes.

They needed each other.

So, for a fifth time, Sarkisian came back to the campus where he was a baseball player and spent three previous stints on the football staff. His departure from Washington caused mixed feelings in Seattle, where he left midway though a contract that ended in 2015; some unrest at USC, which had found some success under popular interim coach Ed Orgeron after Lane Kiffin was fired; and some head-scratching elsewhere in college football (Sarkisian was only 34-29 at Washington).

Sarkisian's OK with a little scrutiny. He knows USC generates stratospheric expectations that can make mistakes sour quickly, but it also has tradition that helped land the Pac-12's best recruiting class shortly after his arrival.

Sarkisian is adding that new talent to a decent inheritance. Offensively, USC returns starting quarterback Cody Kessler, two solid running backs in Javorius Allen and Tre Madden, plus speedy wide receiver Nelson Agholor. However, the Trojans' offensive line was inconsistent last season and suffered a big loss in center Marcus Martin.

Along with offensive coordinator Clay Helton, whom Sarkisian kept after Helton coached the Las Vegas Bowl following Orgeron's hasty departure, Sarkisian is deploying a no-huddle offense that he says will be even more fast-paced than when he was a Trojans assistant.

USC returns seven starters from a defense that was among the nation's top 25 in eight statistical categories last season, including All-America tackle Leonard Williams and linebacker Hayes Pullard, the team's leading tackler last season. Su'a Cravens and Leon McQuay are back at safety, and there's plenty of talent at the corners, whether corner/safety Josh Shaw lines up there or not. The Trojans are going with their third formation in as many years, this time to a 3-4 defense that will use four linemen at times.

BOTTOM LINE

Sarkisian says he came to USC to win national championships, and brought in a recruiting class that could eventually help him get there. But that won't happen right away. A good start might be at least matching the success Orgeron had and convincing fans he was the right hire.

Difference-maker

Nelson Agholor, WR

An all-around athlete who played defensive back and running back in high school, Agholor converted to receiver at USC and led the team last year in receiving yards (918), receiving touchdowns (6) and kickoff-return yards (175). Coaches believe the junior from Tampa can be as good as former teammate Marqise Lee and go down as one of the top wideouts in school history.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Fresno State	45-20
S.6	@ STANFORD	20-17
S.13	@ BOSTON COLLEGE	35-7
S.27	Oregon State	31-14
O.4	Arizona State	41-62
O.11	@ ARIZONA	38-31
O.18	Colorado	47-29
O.25	@ UTAH	19-3
N.1	@ WASHINGTON STATE	7-10
N.13	California	62-28
N.22	@ UCLA	14-35
N.29	Notre Dame	10-14

COACH

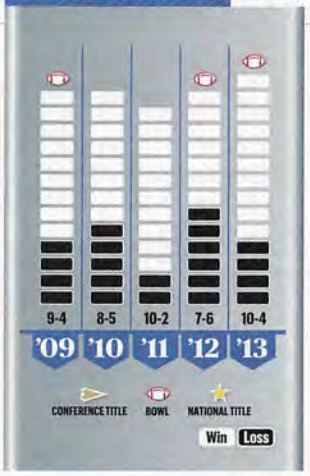
Steve Sarkisian
First year
Career record: 34-29

Offensive coordinator: Clay Helton (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Justin Wilcox (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 10-4
(Beat Fresno State in the Las Vegas Bowl, 45-20)
Stadium: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (93,607)
Tickets: 213-740-GOSC
Site: Los Angeles
Website: usctrojans.com
Twitter: @USC_Athletics

5-YEAR RECORD 44-21



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Cody Kessler (6-1, 215, Jr.)
FB	Soma Vainuku (6-0, 265, Jr.)
TB	Javorius Allen (6-1, 215, Jr.)
LT	Chad Wheeler (6-7, 275, So.)
LG	Toa Lobendahn (6-3 290, Fr.)
C	Max Tuerk (6-6, 285, Jr.)
RG	Khaliel Rodgers (6-3, 310, Fr.)
RT	Zach Banner (6-9, 345, So.)
TE	Randall Telfer (6-4, 250, Sr.)
WR	Darreus Rogers (6-2, 210, So.)
WR	Nelson Agholor (6-0, 185, Jr.)

Defense

DL	Leonard Williams (6-5, 290, Jr.)
NT	Antwaun Woods (6-0, 310, Jr.)
DE	Delvon Simmons (6-6, 300, Jr.)
OLB	J.R. Tavai (6-2, 270, Sr.)
MLB	Hayes Pullard (6-1, 230, Sr.)
WLB	Anthony Sarao (6-0, 215, Jr.)
OLB	Jabari Ruffin (6-3, 225, So.)
CB	Kevin Seymour (6-0, 175, Jr.)
CB	Josh Shaw (6-1, 195, Sr.)
FS	Leon McQuay (6-1, 190, So.)
SS	Su'a Cravens (6-1, 215, So.)

Specialists

K	Andre Heidari (5-10, 210, Sr.)
P	Kris Albarado (5-10, 200, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Adoree' Jackson,** CB/ATH ★★★★★
2. **John "JuJu" Smith,** S/ATH ★★★★★
3. **Damien Mama,** OG ★★★★

The Trojans were one of the top storylines on National Signing Day as first-year coach Steve Sarkisian's inaugural USC class finished with a bang. Thanks to the efforts of ace recruiter Tee Martin, the Trojans swept the "LA trio" of Jackson, Smith and Mama on Signing Day, vaulting to the top class in the Pac-12 and No. 11 nationally. Mama capped an outstanding class of offensive linemen that included fellow U.S. Army All-Americans Toa Lobendahn (one of five players already enrolled) and Viane Talamaivao (flipped from Alabama) and Los Angeles Loyola sleeper Chris Brown.

AGHOLOR: ERIC RISBERG / AP

ARIZONA WILDCATS

5-YEAR RECORD 35-29

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Jesse Scroggins (6-3, 208, Sr.)
RB	Terris Jones-Grigsby (5-7, 182, Sr.)
LT	Mickey Baucus (6-8, 305, Sr.)
LG	Cayman Bundage (6-2, 267, Jr.)
C	Steven Gurrola (6-2, 291, Sr.)
RG	Jacob Alsadek (6-7, 313, Fr.)
RT	Fabbians Ebbele (6-8, 311, Sr.)
WR	Austin Hill (6-3, 210, Sr.)
WR	DaVonte Neal (5-10, 176, So.)
WR	Nate Phillips (5-7, 177, So.)
WR	Cayleb Jones (6-3, 204, So.)

Defense

DE	Reggie Gilbert (6-4, 261, Sr.)
NT	Dwight Melvin (6-1, 272, So.)
DE	Dan Pettinato (6-4, 271, Sr.)
SLB	Keoni Bush-Loo (6-4, 224, Jr.)
MLB	Scooby Wright (6-1, 230, So.)
WLB	DeAndre Miller (6-3, 225, So.)
CB	Jonathan McKnight (5-11, 171, Sr.)
CB	Devin Holliday (5-10, 156, So.)
S	Jared Tevis (5-11, 195, Sr.)
S	Tra'Mayne Bondurant (5-10, 198, Sr.)
FS	Jourdon Grandon (6-0, 195, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Casey Skowron (5-10, 160, Jr.)
P	Drew Riggleman (6-2, 207, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. Cameron Denson, WR/CB ★★★★
2. Marquis Ware, LB ★★★★
3. Jamardre Cobb, LB ★★★★

The Wildcats signed 29 prospects and enrolled eight early, which means this class will have a large impact on the program. Denson, Ware and Cobb (the latter two are from Salesian High in Los Angeles) were offered during the cycle by dozens of programs. Nick Wilson was one of the top running backs in California for the 2014 cycle and offensive tackle Jordan Poland was once committed to USC. At 6-7 and 333 pounds, Poland has a big upside, literally. Jonathan Haden, from Washington, D.C., is a running back who has already enrolled and will be a great fit in Arizona's offense.

Nate Phillips

Even with a modest inheritance of talent at Arizona, coach Rich Rodriguez managed to change the vibe in his first two seasons with the Wildcats. His engaging up-tempo, spread offense helped UA go 8-5 with a second-tier bowl win in each season. But there are some major issues to take care of before the Wildcats can go further.

Mostly, Arizona needs to find the right quarterback and running back while continuing to improve defensively after a horrific 2012 (35.3 points per game allowed). Arizona held teams to 24.2 points last season but lost linebackers Jake Fischer and Marquis Flowers, its top two tacklers, along with veteran corner Shaquille Richardson and end Sione Tuihalamaka. But the ever-hustling Scooby Wright quickly grew from a two-star recruit into a true-freshman starter at linebacker last season. Arizona also has a veteran secondary led by safeties Jared Tevis and Tra'Mayne Bondurant.

Offensively, the issue isn't just replacing NFL Draft early-entry running back Ka'Deem Carey and quarterback B.J. Denker from a high-powered offense that averaged 526.2 yards per game last season. It's developing somebody to produce in that duo's place, since there was nobody close to either last season.

As usual at Arizona, the opportunity at quarterback is a final shot at redemption for transfers. Favorite Jesse Scroggins once backed up Matt Barkley at USC, Connor Brewer transferred from Texas and Jerrard Randall arrived via junior college from LSU. Another possibility is Anu Solomon, a redshirt last year.

The veteran of the running backs, Terris Jones-Grigsby, was probably the most impressive in the spring, but UA's leading returning rusher, the speedy Jared Baker, was out with a torn ACL. Incoming freshman Nick Wilson could beat them all out—he has the strength, speed and physicality reminiscent of Carey.

The offense has a solid, experienced line and so much receiving talent that some may line up as running backs. High-profile transfers DaVonte Neal (Notre Dame) and Cayleb Jones (Texas) give the unit a boost, while Ken Griffey Jr.'s son, Trey, ended last season on a roll.

Difference-maker

Nate Phillips, WR

If Phillips proved anything in 2013, it was that age and size take a back seat to talent. The 5-7, 177-pound freshman led the Wildcats with 51 catches for 696 yards and seven touchdowns. As a testament to his playmaking abilities, he averaged 23.9 yards per touchdown catch. He returns to lead of a potentially deep receiving corps.

BOTTOM LINE

Transitions at so many key spots suggest the Wildcats aren't ready to make another leap forward just yet. But Arizona won't have a tough test until Oct. 2 at Oregon.

4 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
PAC-12 SOUTH

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.29	UNLV	58-13
S.4	@ TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO	38-13
S.13	Nevada	
S.20	California	33-28
O.2	@ OREGON	42-16
O.11	USC	31-38
O.25	@ WASHINGTON STATE	17-24
N.1	@ UCLA	26-31
N.8	Colorado	44-20
N.15	Washington	13-31
N.22	@ UTAH	35-24
N.28	Arizona State	21-58

COACH

Rich Rodriguez
Third year (16-10)
Career record: 136-94-2

Offensive coordinators: Calvin Magee (third year) and Rod Smith (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Jeff Casteel (third year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Beat Boston College in the Advocare V100 Bowl, 42-19)
Stadium: Arizona Stadium (56,037)
Tickets: 520-621-CATS
Site: Tucson, Ariz.
Website: arizonaathletics.com
Twitter: @ArizonaFBall

PHILLIPS: JEFF CHIU / AP

UTAH UTES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

PAC-12 SOUTH

5

Dres Anderson

In 2008, Utah's Kyle Whittingham went undefeated and earned national Coach of the Year. That same season was the second in a row that Dave Christensen coordinated a Missouri offense that was top 10 in total offense.

But it has been a while. So now, the longtime coaching friends are hoping to revive that magic in Utah. Together.

Whittingham hired Christensen less than three weeks after he was fired as Wyoming's head coach, demoting Dennis Erickson in yet another attempt to keep Utah's offense afloat in the Pac-12. The Utes finished 11th in total offense in the conference last season, averaging 396.6 yards per game. Christensen is trying to create a sense of urgency in Utah's spread offense.

The Utes won't know until midsummer if its best option at quarterback, Travis Wilson, will be cleared after a pre-existing arterial issue sidelined him late last season. But Oklahoma grad transfer Kendal Thompson is a good option.

Wide receiver Dres Anderson (1,002 total yards) averaged the fourth-most receiving yards (83.5 per game) in the Pac-12 last season, while Kenneth Scott returns from an ankle injury. At running back, Bubba Poole may beat out a bunch of contenders, while converted defensive lineman Junior Salt anchors the offensive line.

The biggest issue defensively will be replacing hybrid end/linebacker Trevor Reilly. The Utes simply don't have anyone with his versatility, so they will probably need to fill his role with an end and a linebacker. It didn't help that their linebacking corps was shredded in the spring: Jacoby Hale tore his ACL while Miami (Fla.) transfer Gionni Paul, a potential starter at linebacker, was lost until at least the early fall with a foot injury.

Safeties Brian Blechen and Eric Rowe lead the secondary, but the Utes need the speedy Reginald Porter to bounce back from a hip injury and other inexperienced corners to emerge. Converted wide receiver Nate Orchard, at end, leads a defensive line that also needs growth.

BOTTOM LINE

Road games at Stanford, Arizona State and UCLA–plus Michigan–suggest the record won't show much improvement.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Idaho State	
S.6	Fresno State	
S.20	@ MICHIGAN	
S.27	Washington State	37-49
O.4	@ UCLA	27-34
O.16	@ OREGON STATE	48-51
O.25	USC	3-19
N.1	@ ARIZONA STATE	19-20
N.8	Oregon	21-44
N.15	@ STANFORD	27-21
N.22	Arizona	24-35
N.29	@ COLORADO	24-17

COACH

Kyle Whittingham

10th year (76-39)

Career record: 76-39

Offensive coordinator: Dave Christensen (first year)

Defensive coordinator: Kalani Sitake (sixth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 5-7

Stadium: Rice-Eccles Stadium (45,017)

Tickets: 801-581-UTIX

Site: Salt Lake City

Website: utahutes.com

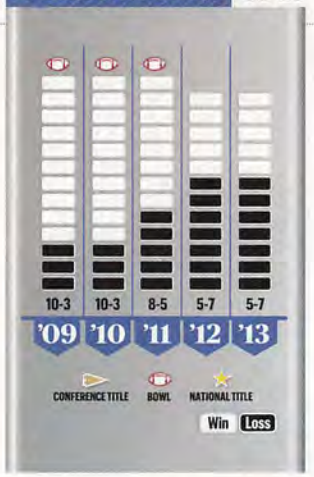
Twitter: @Utah_Football

Difference-maker

Dres Anderson, WR

Injuries have made the quarterback position unstable the last two years in Salt Lake City, but Anderson has remained a reliable weapon for the Utes. The son of NFL single-game-receiving-yards record-holder Willie "Flipper" Anderson, Dres broke the 1,000-yard barrier in 2013 with 1,002 yards on 53 receptions. His 4.40 speed in the 40 and 18.9-yard receiving average allow the Utes to stretch defenses vertically, which will open up and perhaps stabilize the passing game.

5-YEAR RECORD 38-25



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Travis Wilson (6-7, 240, Jr.)
RB	Bubba Poole (6-0, 196, Jr.)
LT	Jeremiah Poutasi (6-5, 345, Jr.)
LG	Junior Salt (6-2, 325, Sr.)
C	Siaosi Aiono (6-2, 305, Jr.)
RG	Salesi Uhatafe (6-4, 319, Fr.)
RT	Isaac Asiata (6-4, 315, So.)
TE	Westlee Tonga (6-4, 252, Sr.)
WR	Dres Anderson (6-1, 187, Sr.)
WR	Delshawn McClellon (5-9, 166, So.)
WR	Kenneth Scott (6-3, 211, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Nate Orchard (6-3, 255, Sr.)
DT	Viliseni Fauonuku (5-11, 285, Jr.)
DT	Sese Ianu (6-2, 305, Sr.)
DE	Jason Fanaika (6-3, 270, Jr.)
OLB	Uaea Masina (6-2, 215, So.)
MLB	Jason Whittingham (6-2, 240, Jr.)
OLB	Jared Norris (6-1, 230, Jr.)
CB	Davion Orphey (6-0, 187, Sr.)
CB	Reginald Porter (5-11, 190, So.)
FS	Eric Rowe (6-1, 205, Sr.)
SS	Brian Blechen (6-2, 225, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Andy Phillips (5-11, 210, So.)
P	Tom Hackett (6-0, 187, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1 ▸ **Jackson Barton,** OT ★★★★
2 ▸ **Allan Havili,** DT ★★★
3 ▸ **Andre Godfrey,** S ★★★

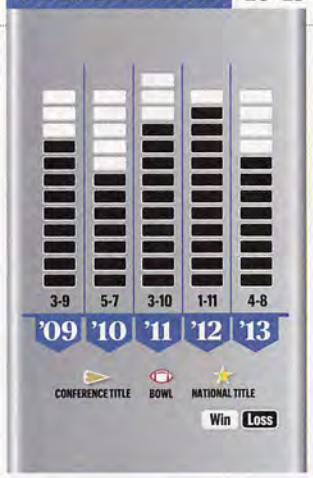
The nation's No. 66 overall class featured one of the most diverse geographic balances in the Pac-12. The Utes signed players from Florida, Texas and Louisiana in addition to their normal footprint of Utah, California and Nevada. Safety Andre Godfrey (Miramar, Fla.) is a good one and was recruited by assistant Dennis Erickson, the ex-University of Miami head coach. Barton has the size and footwork to be a good offensive tackle, as does Havili on the other side of the ball. Raelon Singleton, juco standout Kaelin Clay, Marcus Williams and Kenric Young give the Utes a nice set of receivers in the class.

ANDERSON: DEAN HARE / AP

COLORADO BUFFALOES

6 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
PAC-12 SOUTH

5-YEAR RECORD 16-45



Sefo Liufau

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Sefo Liufau (6-4, 225, So.)
TB	Christian Powell (6-0, 230, Jr.)
LT	Jeromy Irwin (6-5, 285, So.)
LG	Kaiwi Crabb (6-3, 305, Sr.)
C	Alex Kelley (6-2, 315, So.)
RG	Daniel Munyer (6-2, 295, Sr.)
RT	Stephane Nembot (6-7, 305, Jr.)
TE	Sean Irwin (6-3, 235, So.)
WR	Nelson Spruce (6-1, 195, Jr.)
WR	D.D. Goodson (5-6, 170, Sr.)
WR	Bryce Bobo (6-2, 190, Fr.)

Defense

DE	Tyler Henington (6-2, 265, Jr.)
DT	Josh Tupou (6-3, 320, Jr.)
DT	Juda Parker (6-2, 270, Sr.)
DE	Derek McCartney (6-3, 240, Fr.)
OLB	Woodson Greer (6-3, 215, Sr.)
MLB	Addison Gillam (6-3, 225, So.)
WLB	Kenneth Olugbode (6-0, 210, So.)
CB	Kenneth Crawley (6-1, 170, Jr.)
CB	Greg Henderson (5-11, 185, Sr.)
SS	Tedrick Thompson (6-0, 200, So.)
FS	Jered Bell (6-1, 200, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Will Oliver (5-11, 190, Sr.)
P	Darragh O'Neill (6-2, 190, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. Shay Fields, WR ★★★
2. Isaac Miller, OT ★★★
3. Cade Apsay, QB ★★★

It wasn't the easiest of recruiting cycles for the Buffaloes, as the top five prospects in Colorado all left the state. This class ranked No. 12 in the Pac-12 and No. 76 nationally. Junior-college cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon has already enrolled and is intriguing at a listed 6-3. Lee Walker from San Diego Madison also has arrived to help in the secondary. Fields was once committed to USC and played for St. John Bosco, a championship-winning program in southern California. Don't count out hard-nosed defensive tackle Jase Franke down the road; he only needs to fill out his frame and add strength.

For his opening act at Colorado, coach Mike MacIntyre almost outdid himself. After catapulting San Jose State from a one-win team into the Top 25, he signed a five-year, $10 million deal to take over almost equally moribund Colorado before last season–and beat Colorado State in a crisply played opener.

Colorado went on to start 2-0, but its momentum was washed away. Literally.

Colorado floods resulted in the cancellation of a mid-September game with Fresno State, forcing CU to head straight to Oregon State for a blowout loss. Things went generally downhill from there. Colorado was destroyed most of the time in Pac-12 play and managed to beat only woeful California. But there were good signs: CU rarely beat itself, setting a school record with only 14 fumbles and committing just 30 penalties over its last nine games. And, while MacIntyre inherited a star in receiver Paul Richardson, he also showcased a strong foundation of rookies.

Early on in the Buffaloes' Pac-12 struggles, freshman quarterback Sefo Liufau took over for Connor Wood and showed enough promise to stick in the lineup (while Wood quit football after the season). In the offseason, Liufau worked to improve technically–on better hip movement–and personally, bonding with the committee of CU receivers trying to replace Richardson. Two that could make a big difference: Nelson Spruce, who caught 55 passes and four touchdowns last year, and versatile 5-6 senior D.D. Goodson.

Colorado also has a tailback in Michael Adkins who broke the 500-yard mark as a freshman.

On defense, the Buffs received an immediate surprise from inside linebacker Addison Gillam, an unheralded San Jose State grayshirt who followed MacIntyre to Colorado. Among other things, Gillam set a school record for tackles by a freshman when he had 18 against Oregon. Chidobe Awuzie was a big factor at corner and nickel back.

On the defensive line, Josh Tupou is a tough-minded anchor at tackle, but he'll need help from the redshirts and young players around him.

Difference-maker

Sefo Liufau, QB

Liufau took the signal-calling reins midway through the sixth game against Arizona State last season, wherein he engineered an 80-yard touchdown drive as part of a 169-yard day. Accuracy and composure were the 6-4, 225-pound true freshman's hallmark in his seven starts, as he averaged 230 passing yards. He'll have to adjust, however, to the departure of star receiver and favorite target Paul Richardson for his sophomore campaign.

BOTTOM LINE

The Buffs still need big help to get multiple wins in the Pac-12.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.29	Colorado State*	41-27
S.6	@ MASSACHUSETTS**	
S.13	Arizona State	13-54
S.20	Hawaii	
S.27	@ CALIFORNIA	41-24
O.4	Oregon State	17-44
O.18	@ USC	29-47
O.25	UCLA	23-45
N.1	Washington	7-59
N.8	@ ARIZONA	20-44
N.22	@ OREGON	16-57
N.29	Utah	17-24

* At Denver
** At Foxboro, MA

COACH

Mike MacIntyre
Second year (4-8)
Career record: 20-29

Offensive coordinator: Brian Lindgren (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Kent Baer (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 4-8
Stadium: Folsom Field (53,613)
Tickets: 800-87-BUFFS
Site: Boulder, Colo.
Website: cubuffs.com
Twitter: @RunRalphieRun

LIUFAU: TED S. WARREN / AP

Nick Marshall

PROJECTED FINISH

EAST

1. **SOUTH CAROLINA** — Bowl Projection: Taxslayer.com Gator Bowl
2. **GEORGIA** — Bowl Projection: Outback Bowl
3. **FLORIDA** — Bowl Projection: Liberty Bowl
4. **MISSOURI** — Bowl Projection: Texas Bowl
5. **TENNESSEE** — Bowl Projection: Birmingham Bowl
6. **VANDERBILT**
7. **KENTUCKY**

WEST

1. **ALABAMA** — Bowl Projection: Rose Bowl (Playoff Semifinal)
2. **AUBURN** — Bowl Projection: Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl
3. **LSU** — Bowl Projection: Capital One Bowl
4. **TEXAS A&M** — Bowl Projection: Music City Bowl
5. **OLE MISS** — Bowl Projection: Belk Bowl
6. **MISSISSIPPI STATE** — Bowl Projection: Independence Bowl
7. **ARKANSAS**

Four playoff spots mean less nervous waiting for the always-loaded SEC

BY SCOTT RABALAIS | *The Advocate (Baton Rouge, La.)*

The SEC doesn't need your pity.

Yes, the conference's seven-year run of dominance—some heretics have labeled it a "reign of terror"—came to an end in the final BCS Championship Game with Florida State's 34-31 win over Auburn at the Rose Bowl.

But let the record show that to snap the SEC's unprecedented string of national championships it took an SEC-like team in the Seminoles to mount a heroic charge and score the winning touchdown with 13 seconds left in the BCS era.

Now college football enters a new chapter with the emergence of the College Football Playoff. The four-team format won't guarantee another run of trophy-hoisting for the SEC, but it certainly looks like it will keep the conference in the national title hunt on an annual basis.

In fact, the SEC's task may have just gotten a bit easier. Getting into the final two of the BCS standings was harder than the SEC made it look.

But the final four? There are some in the SEC who feel quite sure they should make their reservations now for one of the CFP semifinals in New Orleans or Pasadena, Calif.

Or both.

"All of us in the SEC, if we can win our division, win the (SEC Championship) game in Atlanta, we will probably be in that final four," South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier once said.

Is that bragging? Yes. But it's also reality.

That said, the SEC will face some challenges in getting one or more teams into the playoff at the end of this season.

Most SEC teams will be breaking in new quarterbacks, and a ton of NFL-grade talent has taken its leave from the SEC. Players like Johnny Manziel and Jadeveon Clowney and Tre Mason and Odell Beckham Jr. and Mike Evans are now pros.

But this is the SEC, where fans are often happy down deep to see the old stars depart because it makes room for the new ones.

So come on Chris Jones, T.J. Yeldon, Damiere Byrd, Laquon Treadwell and Leonard Fournette. Let's see what you've got.

The spotlight—and college football's final four—await you.

TRENDING

Three stories to watch

1 **Spread offenses: Will Muschamp is a Nick Saban disciple, but his Florida Gators are the latest to chuck the pro set for the no-huddle.**

RECRUITING RANKINGS

by JC Shurburtt, 247Sports

247 COMPOSITE

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL PLAYERS	★★★★★ 5-STAR RECRUITS	★★★★ 4-STAR RECRUITS	★★★ 3-STAR RECRUITS	POINTS
1	Alabama	26	6	15	5	319.58
2	LSU	23	4	12	7	297.59
3	Texas A&M	21	3	11	7	277.35
4	Auburn	24	2	11	11	276.87
5	Tennessee	33	0	16	17	274.79
6	Georgia	21	3	10	8	273.38
7	Florida	24	1	8	15	267.75
8	Ole Miss	25	0	6	19	240.82
9	South Carolina	21	0	10	11	240.77
10	Kentucky	29	0	6	23	225.53
11	Arkansas	24	0	4	19	213.24
12	Mississippi State	24	0	3	20	200.03
13	Missouri	29	0	3	25	195.14
14	Vanderbilt	22	0	2	16	183.09

ALL-SEC

Offense

- **QB** **Nick Marshall,** Sr., Auburn
- **RB** **Todd Gurley,** Jr., Georgia
- **RB** **T.J. Yeldon,** Jr., Alabama
- **OL** **John Theus,** Jr., Georgia
- **OL** **Cedric Ogbuhei,** Sr., Texas A&M
- **OL** **Reese Dismukes,** Sr., Auburn
- **OL** **Arie Kouandjio,** Sr., Alabama
- **OL** **Laremy Tunsil,** So., Ole Miss
- **TE** **Evan Engram,** So., Ole Miss
- **WR** **Amari Cooper,** Jr., Alabama
- **WR** **Sammie Coates,** Jr., Auburn

Defense

- **DE** **Markus Golden,** Sr., Missouri
- **DL** **Montravius Adams,** Jr., Auburn
- **DL** **Brandon Ivory,** Sr., Alabama
- **DE** **Dante Fowler Jr.,** Jr., Florida
- **LB** **Ramik Wilson,** Sr., Georgia
- **LB** **A.J. Johnson,** Sr., Tennessee
- **LB** **Trey DePriest,** Sr., Alabama
- **CB** **Vernon Hargreaves III,** So., Florida
- **CB** **Damian Swann,** Sr., Georgia
- **S** **Cody Prewitt,** Sr., Ole Miss
- **S** **Landon Collins,** Jr., Alabama

Specialists

- **K** **Marshall Morgan,** Jr., Georgia
- **P** **Drew Kaser,** Jr., Texas A&M

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

If the Tigers are to repeat their 2013 success, Marshall has to be even better. The good thing is no veteran SEC quarterback still has more upside.

Ramik Wilson

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Wilson had Hack Wilson-like numbers last year with his 133 total tackles. He'll have to lead a salty defense until a young offense catches up.

ASCENDING

SOUTH CAROLINA

Remember when the Gamecocks hadn't even won a bowl? Under Spurrier, it wouldn't be a shock if one day they won a national title.

DESCENDING

LSU

Handcuffed by inexperienced quarterbacks and receivers, the Tigers may take a step back in 2014—but only to take a running start at 2015.

2 Young guns: Eight SEC schools will start new quarterbacks. Some of them, like Texas A&M's Kyle Allen and LSU's Brandon Harris, are true freshmen.

3 Return of the running back: The league of Bo and Herschel and Emmitt may be ruled by running backs once again in 2014.

RATING THE SEC

FASTEST RECEIVER
Damiere Byrd, South Carolina
He's coming off a knee injury, but the former SEC 60-meter dash champ can still fly.

BEST HANDS
Laquon Treadwell, WR, Ole Miss
Hands so sticky he makes Spider-Man jealous.

BEST PASSING QB
Bo Wallace, Ole Miss
After last year's quarterback exodus, Wallace is the best of a short list.

BEST RUNNING QB
Nick Marshall, Auburn
His 1,000-yard rushing season made Cam Newton weep.

MOST ELUSIVE RB
T.J. Yeldon, Alabama
Is it elusive just to flat run over people then run away?

BEST INSTINCTS
Landon Collins, S, Alabama
Call them survival instincts under Nick Saban's withering glare.

BEST ATHLETE
Todd Gurley, RB, Georgia
Word is his parents back on Krypton are very proud.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Dylan Thompson, QB, South Carolina
Connor Shaw no longer has his back, but Dylan can do the job.

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Cedrick Ogbuehi, OT, Texas A&M
He kept Johnny Manziel from getting blindsided—and may do so again in the NFL.

TOP IMPACT FROSH
Leonard Fournette, RB, LSU
Some are calling Fournette the top tailback prospect in a decade.

HARDEST HITTER
Trey DePriest, LB, Alabama
You may need a priest after DePriest hits you.

BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER
Dak Prescott, QB, Mississippi State
Hardly a super-heralded recruit, Prescott is this year's top run-pass threat in the league.

BEST INTERVIEW
Steve Spurrier, South Carolina
They don't make them as candid, as snarky, as eager to gig an opposing coach as Spurrier. Long may he wave.

BEST COACH AS STRATEGIST
Nick Saban, Alabama
"The Process" may have taken a beating at the end of last season, but the only coach to win national titles at two different schools is the one with the most trophies.

BEST COACH AS RECRUITER
Nick Saban, Alabama
Except for Jameis Winston, it seems Saban just goes around the country and tells recruits, "I'll take you and you and you."

HOTTEST SEAT
Will Muschamp, Florida
It's really broiling this year in Gainesville for Muschamp, especially with trigger-happy Florida AD Jeremy Foley's finger on the eject button.

BEST VENUE
Tiger Stadium, LSU
If you have a college football bucket list, a visit to Death Valley for a big Saturday night game is a must. And try whatever they're cooking; you'll have no regrets.

PLAYER MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (OFF THE FIELD)
Vernon Hargreaves III, CB, Florida
The leadership qualities he's already showing in the Florida locker room can't be taught.

MARSHALL: DAVE MARTIN / AP; WILSON: JOHN RAOUX / AP

SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC EAST
1

Shaq Roland

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Texas A&M	
S.6	East Carolina	
S.13	Georgia	30-41
S.20	@ VANDERBILT	35-25
S.27	Missouri	27-24
O.4	@ KENTUCKY	35-28
O.18	Furman	
O.25	@ AUBURN	
N.1	Tennessee	21-23
N.15	@ FLORIDA	19-14
N.22	South Alabama	
N.29	@ CLEMSON	31-17

COACH
Steve Spurrier
10th year (77-39)
Career record: 219-79-2

Offensive coordinators: Shawn Elliott (third year) and Steve Spurrier Jr. (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Lorenzo Ward (third year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 11-2
(Beat Wisconsin in the Capital One Bowl, 34-24)
Stadium: Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)
Tickets: 800-4SC-FANS
Site: Columbia, S.C.
Website: gamecocksonline.com
Twitter: @GamecockFB

When he was coach at Florida, Steve Spurrier used to lobby annually at SEC Media Days for a college football playoff.

During his first appearance at Media Days as coach at South Carolina back in 2005, someone asked Spurrier if he was still in favor of a playoff.

"I don't think we have to worry about it right now," Spurrier cracked.

It's time Spurrier and the Gamecocks started worrying.

It's no hype to say South Carolina football has never been better. The Gamecocks are coming off three straight 11-win seasons and three consecutive top-10 finishes for the first time in program history. They finished No. 4 in both major polls last season, thanks to a six-game winning streak (the SEC's longest active one) that included victories over three ranked foes in Missouri, Clemson and Wisconsin.

This year, despite having lost its quarterback, top receiver and top defensive player from 2013, the Gamecocks are still a good bet to come out on top in the wide-open and unpredictable SEC East. And that means–as Spurrier predicted two years ago–a very good shot at being in the inaugural four-team College Football Playoff.

"All of us in the SEC, if we can win our division, win the game in Atlanta, we will probably be in that final four," Spurrier said. "That's the only thing we need to try to concern ourselves with."

Charged with leading the Gamecocks there will be senior quarterback Dylan Thompson.

He shared the spotlight with now-graduated Connor Shaw last season, but this is Thompson's show now. Less of a run-pass threat than his predecessor, Thompson completed 52 of 89 passes in 2013 for 783 yards with four touchdowns and three interceptions.

Losing Shaw's 558 yards and six rushing TDs is easier to accept with Mike Davis returning for his junior season. He was the SEC's fifth-leading rusher in 2013 with 98.6 yards per game (1,183 yards overall) and 11 TDs and needs to stay a healthy and integral part of the offense if the Gamecocks are to thrive.

Four starters on the O-line return, led by seniors Corey Robinson at left tackle and A.J. Cann at left guard. The biggest concern on

Difference-maker
Shaq Roland, WR

At 6-1 and 185 pounds, he's not close to the physical stature of his legendary namesake from the hardwood, O'Neal, but Roland's game is, dare we say, "Shaqtastic." Despite missing three games due to suspension, the big-play receiver averaged 18.2 yards per catch as a sophomore while amassing 455 receiving yards and five touchdowns on a team loaded with great wideouts. With dropback passer Dylan Thompson taking over at quarterback, the Gamecocks will rely more on Roland and the air attack this year.

ROLAND: JOHN RADUX/AP

offense is at wide receiver. Not only are Bruce Ellington and his 49 catches gone, but projected starter Shaq Roland had some off-field issues to deal with during the offseason. Damiere Byrd, the former SEC 60-meter-dash champion, is the top returner production-wise with 33 receptions for 575 yards and four TDs.

Big holes to fill on the defensive line represent the biggest threat to the Gamecocks' championship hopes.

The most obvious issue is replacing end Jadeveon Clowney, widely regarded for most of his college career as the nation's top NFL prospect. But fellow end Chaz Sutton is gone, too, as is All-America tackle Kelcy Quarles. Senior J.T. Surratt (33 tackles) is the only returning regular. Joining him will likely be junior Phillip Dukes at the other tackle spot, Gerald Dixon at one end and Darius English at the other.

South Carolina actually has two Gerald Dixons on the defensive front. Gerald Dixon Jr., Gerald Dixon's half-brother, is poised to be Surratt's prime backup. In addition to the confusing name-calling, defensive coordinator Lorenzo Ward spent the spring tinkering with a 3-4 alignment. In that set, both Dixons could start with Surratt at nose guard.

Skai Moore returns at weakside linebacker after leading the team with 56 tackles as a freshman. Safeties Brison Williams and Kadetrix Marcus are the only returning starters in the secondary, though Marcus went to August in a fight with Chaz Elder at free safety.

Elliott Fry, a former walk-on, returns as placekicker after a solid freshman campaign in which he made 15 of 18 field goals and 54 of 55 extra points. Punting (senior Tyler Hull is back) is the Gamecocks' weakest link: They finished last in the SEC in net punting at 34.1 yards per kick last season.

BOTTOM LINE

Talent, experience and momentum make South Carolina the team to beat in the SEC East by a narrow margin over Florida, Georgia and Missouri, but the title will be hard-earned. The Gamecocks host Texas A&M in the first football game on the SEC Network (their first meeting) on Aug. 28, followed two weeks later by a visit from Georgia that always sets the tone in the division race. Key contests with Missouri, Auburn and Florida follow. The season-ender at Clemson could determine whether the Gamecocks go into the SEC Championship Game playing for a CFP berth.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

South Carolina had major needs at defensive end and cornerback for the 2014 cycle and landed four prospects—cornerbacks Chris Lammons and Green and defensive ends Dexter Wideman and Blake McClain—on Signing Day to finish with a flurry and the No. 16 class nationally. The Gamecocks beat out Alabama and others for 6-5, 340-pound junior-college defensive tackle Abu Lamin of Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College. He has already enrolled and could help immediately.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Bryson Allen-Williams, OLB ★★★★
2. Donell Stanley, OG ★★★★
3. Wesley Green, CB ★★★★

THOMPSON: RAINER EHRHARDT / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Dylan Thompson	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	10	140.4	52-89-3	58.4	783	4	78.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Mike Davis	12	203	1183	5.8	11	98.6

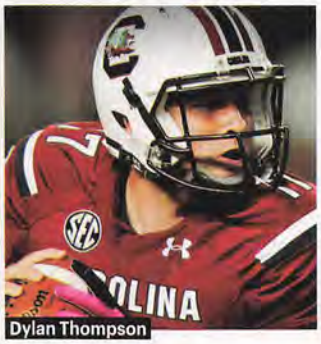
RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Mike Davis	12	34	352	10.4	0	29.3

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Skai Moore	13	30	26	56

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Sharrod Golightly	13	1.5	13
J.T. Surratt	13	1.5	12
Marcquis Roberts	13	1.5	7

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Skai Moore	4	4	1.0	0



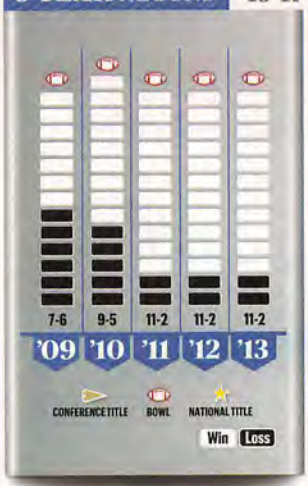
Dylan Thompson

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	SC	OPP
SCORING	443	264
Points Per Game	34.1	20.3
FIRST DOWNS	291	228
Rushing	134	106
Passing	145	103
Penalty	12	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	2580	2000
Yards gained rushing	2835	2350
Yards lost rushing	255	350
Rushing Attempts	537	464
Average Per Rush	4.8	4.3
Average Per Game	198.5	153.8
TDs Rushing	27	16
PASSING YARDAGE	3300	2550
Comp-Att-Int	239-383-4	221-369-18
Average Per Pass	8.6	6.9
Average Per Catch	13.8	11.5
Average Per Game	253.8	196.2
TDs Passing	30	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	5880	4550
Total Plays	920	833
Average Per Play	6.4	5.5
Average Per Game	452.3	350.0
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	36-709	42-943
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	22-83	12-99
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	18-121	4-83
KICK RETURN AVG.	19.7	22.5
PUNT RETURN AVG.	3.8	8.2
INT RETURN AVG.	6.7	20.8
FUMBLES-LOST	19-13	17-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	69-543	62-441
Average Per Game	41.8	33.9
PUNTS-YARDS	47-1741	58-2373
Average Per Punt	37.0	40.9
Net punt average	34.1	37.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:01	27:59
3RD-DOWN CONV.	79/180	63/169
3rd-Down Pct.	44%	37%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	21/30	13/21
4th-Down Pct.	70%	62%
SACKS BY-YARDS	25-193	23-153
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	57	32
FG-ATTEMPTS	15-18	13-18
ATTENDANCE	576805	369513
Games/Avg Per Game	7/82401	5/73903
Neutral Site Games		1/56629

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
South Carolina	124	98	111	100	10	443
Opponent	55	96	26	80	7	264

5-YEAR RECORD 49-17



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Dylan Thompson (6-3, 219, Sr.)
	Brendan Nosovitch (6-1, 222, So.)
FB	Connor McLaurin (6-0, 238, Sr.)
	Jordan Diaz (6-1, 228, Sr.)
RB	Mike Davis (5-9, 216, Jr.)
	Brandon Wilds (6-2, 218, Jr.)
LT	Corey Robinson (6-8, 348, Sr.)
	Mason Zandi (6-9, 303, So.)
LG	A.J. Cann (6-4, 318, Sr.)
	Brock Stadnik (6-5, 294, So.)
C	Cody Waldrop (6-2, 315, So.)
	Clayton Stadnik (6-3, 279, So.)
RG	Na'Ty Rodgers (6-5, 289, Fr.)
	Will Sport (6-5, 301, Jr.)
RT	Brandon Shell (6-6, 334, Jr.)
	Mike Matulis (6-5, 304, Jr.)
TE	Rory Anderson (6-5, 230, Sr.)
	Jerell Adams (6-6, 247, Jr.)
WR	Shaq Roland (6-1, 185, Jr.)
	Shamier Jeffery (6-1, 203, Jr.)
WR	Damiere Byrd (5-9, 166, Sr.)
	Nick Jones (5-7, 174, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Gerald Dixon (6-2, 267, So.)
	Mason Harris (6-3, 231, Jr.)
DT	J.T. Surratt (6-2, 305, Sr.)
	Gerald Dixon Jr. (6-3, 325, Jr.)
DT	Phillip Dukes (6-3, 322, Jr.)
	Kelsey Griffin (6-2, 307, So.)
DE	Darius English (6-6, 235, So.)
	Cedrick Cooper (6-2, 226, Jr.)
OLB	Skai Moore (6-2, 210, So.)
	Jonathan Walton (6-0, 237, So.)
MLB	Kaiwan Lewis (6-0, 235, Jr.)
	T.J. Holloman (6-2, 233, So.)
OLB	Sharrod Golightly (5-10, 205, Sr.)
	Jordan Diggs (6-0, 221, So.)
CB	Ali Groves (5-10, 189, Fr.)
	Jamari Smith (5-10, 199, So.)
CB	Rico McWilliams (5-11, 184, So.)
	Sidney Rhodes (5-10, 175, Sr.)
FS	Kadetrix Marcus (6-1, 197, Sr.)
	Chaz Elder (6-2, 196, So.)
SS	Brison Williams (5-11, 218, Sr.)
	T.J. Gurley (5-10, 194, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Elliott Fry (6-0, 155, So.)
P	Tyler Hull (6-2, 210, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

GEORGIA BULDOGS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC EAST
2

Todd Gurley

2014 SN 15 NATIONAL RANK

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Clemson	35-38
S.13	@ SOUTH CAROLINA	41-30
S.20	Troy	
S.27	Tennessee	34-31
O.4	Vanderbilt	27-31
O.11	@ MISSOURI	26-41
O.18	@ ARKANSAS	
N.1	Florida*	23-20
N.8	@ KENTUCKY	59-17
N.15	Auburn	38-43
N.22	Charleston Southern	
N.29	Georgia Tech	41-34

* At Jacksonville, FL

COACH
Mark Richt
14th year (126-45)
Career record: 126-45

Offensive coordinator: Mike Bobo (eighth year)
Defensive coordinator: Jeremy Pruitt (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Lost to Nebraska in the Gator Bowl, 24-19)
Stadium: Sanford Stadium (92,746)
Tickets: 877-542-1231
Site: Athens, Ga.
Website: georgiadogs.com
Twitter: @UGAAthletics

Oh, what might have been for the Georgia Bulldogs last season had they just been able to stay a little healthier?

More than two dozen Bulldogs were injured at some point last year, a major factor in an 8-5 record that was disappointing by Georgia standards.

But four of those losses came by a combined 17 points, which begs questions like:

Would Todd Gurley have made the difference in a 31-27 loss at Vanderbilt? Would having Justin Scott-Wesley catching passes at Auburn offset the 73-yard miracle by Ricardo Louis in that 43-38 defeat? Would a healthy Aaron Murray have pieced together a late drive to overcome Georgia's 24-19 deficit to Nebraska in the Gator Bowl?

With 17 returning starters, and considering the level at which coach Mark Richt and his staff annually recruit, the prospect of another trip to the SEC Championship Game is within the Bulldogs' grasp–if they can stay on the field and out of the training room.

The biggest issues facing Georgia going into this season are replacing Murray at quarterback and the men who will block for that replacement.

After four long years of waiting, this is finally Hutson Mason's team to lead. Last season, he started against Georgia Tech and Nebraska after Murray was injured against Kentucky, leading the Bulldogs back from a 20-0 deficit to beat the Yellow Jackets and throwing for 320 yards against the Cornhuskers.

At least Mason will know the comfort of being able to put the ball in Gurley and Keith Marshall's hands and watch them run. The Bulldogs' outstanding tailback tandem was hampered by injuries last year–a sprained ankle cost Gurley three games, an ACL tear ended Marshall's season after just five. But their ability when healthy (a combined 2,144 yards in 2012) is testament to their combined talents.

Finding the right chemistry up front among their blockers will be one of the most crucial tasks in preseason camp. The only returning starters on the offensive line are center David Andrews and right tackle John Theus. Mark Beard is on pace to take over at left tackle, while Kolton Houston and Greg Pyke will man the guard spots.

The receiving corps was hard hit by injuries last year, problems that continued this spring for junior Malcolm Mitchell. He tore an ACL in the first quarter of last season at Clemson and suffered a minor injury to his other leg early

Difference-makers
Todd Gurley/Keith Marshall, RB

Gurley and Marshall, better known as "Gurshall," comprise one of the country's top rushing duos for the Dawgs. Both were injured at times last year, with Gurley missing three games and Marshall eight. They still combined for 1,235 rushing yards despite missing so much action. If both can stay healthy in 2014, they can approach 2012's combined rushing yard total of 2,144.

GURLEY: STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

in spring practice, with Georgia coaches shutting him down as a precaution. Justin Scott-Wesley returns after tearing an ACL in Week Five against Tennessee in 2013.

Defensively, is it a good thing to return nine starters from a unit that allowed 29 points per game? Perhaps it's better that Georgia brought in a new defensive coordinator in Jeremy Pruitt from national champion Florida State.

Pruitt didn't change Georgia's 3-4 scheme but adopted somewhat of an "I'll treat you Bulldogs all like dogs" mentality, forcing his nine returning starters out of the comfort zone of job security. That was even the case for inside linebackers Ramik Wilson and Amarlo Herrera, who ranked first and third in the SEC last season with 133 and 112 tackles, respectively.

One big area of concern for Pruitt was Georgia's secondary—the Bulldogs allowed 227.4 yards per game passing in 2013. It isn't a stretch to say all of Georgia's top eight defensive backs have a chance to start, though safety Tray Matthews was one of those players arrested for double check cashing in March.

There isn't a better placekicker in the SEC, or perhaps the nation, than junior Marshall Morgan. He set an SEC record in 2013 for best field goal percentage (minimum 20 attempts) by connecting on 22 of 24 attempts (91.7 percent).

Punting is another story. Walk-on Adam Erickson (40.5 yards per punt) and the man he beat out late last season, Collin Barber (44.1-yard average), are currently waging a battle that will extend into the summer. For now, Erickson has the edge.

BOTTOM LINE

As usual, the Bulldogs don't shrink from a scheduling challenge. Georgia opens at home against Clemson in another big nonconference showdown, but what could once again be the game of the year in the SEC East comes two weeks later at South Carolina. Whether the Bulldogs win or lose in Columbia, they will be a factor in the SEC East race going into November games with Florida and Auburn. The talent is certainly still there for Georgia. It will simply be a question of whether they are playing from a game in front or from a game behind.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Tailback at Georgia is one of the glamour positions in all of college football, so it's no surprise that even with Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall still on campus, the Bulldogs were able to sign another pair of elite backs in Michel and Chubb. Keeping elite pass rusher Carter, from Norcross, Ga., home on Signing Day was huge for what ended up as the No. 8 class nationally and for running backs coach Bryan McClendon, Carter's recruiter and the top-ranked recruiter in the country for 2014, according to 247Sports. Quarterback Jacob Park has already enrolled and is the second straight "Mr. Football" from South Carolina that UGA has signed. Keep an eye on two receivers—Isaiah McKenzie and Rico Jonson—who aren't household names if you follow recruiting, but they can play.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Lorenzo Carter, DE ★★★★★
2. Sony Michel, RB ★★★★★
3. Nick Chubb, RB ★★★★★

MARSHALL: GARRY JONES/AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Hutson Mason	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	5	144.4	64-110-3	60.9	968	5	193.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Todd Gurley	10	165	989	6.0	10	98.9

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chris Conley	11	45	651	14.5	4	59.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Ramik Wilson	13	76	57	133

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Leonard Floyd	13	6.5	55

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Shaq Wiggins	2	39	19.5	1

Keith Marshall

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	GEO	OPP
SCORING	477	377
Points Per Game	36.7	29.0
FIRST DOWNS	324	252
Rushing	117	101
Passing	184	126
Penalty	23	25
RUSHING YARDAGE	2209	1926
Yards gained rushing	2481	2292
Yards lost rushing	272	366
Rushing Attempts	486	520
Average Per Rush	4.5	3.7
Average Per Game	169.9	148.2
TDs Rushing	26	25
PASSING YARDAGE	4085	2956
Comp-Att-Int	293-459-12	221-382-7
Average Per Pass	8.9	7.7
Average Per Catch	13.9	13.4
Average Per Game	314.2	227.4
TDs Passing	31	18
TOTAL OFFENSE	6294	4882
Total Plays	945	902
Average Per Play	6.7	5.4
Average Per Game	484.2	375.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	25-465	63-1349
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	25-73	10-43
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	7-78	12-58
KICK RETURN AVG.	18.6	21.4
PUNT RETURN AVG.	2.9	4.3
INT RETURN AVG.	11.1	4.8
FUMBLES-LOST	22-10	18-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	83-617	83-624
Average Per Game	47.5	48.0
PUNTS-YARDS	44-1808	66-2744
Average Per Punt	41.1	41.6
Net punt average	39.2	39.3
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:23	30:37
3RD-DOWN CONV.	69/165	77/193
3rd-Down Pct.	42%	40%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	13/22	14/22
4th-Down Pct.	59%	64%
SACKS BY-YARDS	33-222	22-140
MISC YARDS	1	0
TDS SCORED	58	47
FG-ATTEMPTS	24-26	16-23
ATTENDANCE	556476	369000
Games/Avg Per Game	6/92746	5/73800
Neutral Site Games		2/72702

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Georgia	117	122	112	109	17	477
Opponent	85	112	71	102	7	377

5-YEAR RECORD 44-23

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Hutson Mason (6-3, 202, Sr.)
	Faton Bauta (6-3, 216, So.)
FB	Merritt Hall (5-11, 226, Jr.)
	Quayvon Hicks (6-2, 257, Jr.)
RB	Todd Gurley (6-1, 232, Jr.)
	Keith Marshall (5-11, 219, Jr.)
LT	Mark Beard (6-5, 300, Sr.)
	Xzavier Ward (6-7, 278, Jr.)
LG	Kolton Houston (6-5, 280, Sr.)
	Brandon Kublanow (6-3, 290, So.)
C	David Andrews (6-2, 295, Sr.)
	Kolton Houston (6-5, 280, Sr.)
RG	Greg Pyke (6-6, 326, So.)
	Brandon Kublanow (6-3, 290, So.)
RT	John Theus (6-6, 298, Jr.)
	Watts Dantzler (6-7, 307, Sr.)
TE	Jay Rome (6-6, 254, Jr.)
	Jordan Davis (6-4, 225, Fr.)
WR	Malcolm Mitchell (6-1, 190, Jr.)
	Justin Scott-Wesley (5-11, 206, Jr.)
WR	Chris Conley (6-3, 206, Sr.)
	Michael Bennett (6-3, 205, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Sterling Bailey (6-3, 282, Jr.)
	Jon Taylor (6-4, 336, So.)
NT	Toby Johnson (6-4, 305, Sr.)
	Mike Thornton (6-1, 290, Sr.)
DE	Josh Dawson (6-4, 275, Jr.)
	Ray Drew (6-5, 276, Sr.)
OLB	Jordan Jenkins (6-3, 246, Jr.)
	James DeLoach (6-3, 265, Jr.)
ILB	Ramik Wilson (6-2, 232, Sr.)
	Tim Kimbrough (6-0, 228, So.)
ILB	Amarlo Herrera (6-2, 244, Sr.)
	Reggie Carter (6-1, 229, So.)
OLB	Leonard Floyd (6-4, 220, So.)
	James DeLoach (6-3, 265, Jr.)
CB	Damian Swann (5-11, 178, Sr.)
	Shaq Wiggins (5-10, 165, So.)
CB	Brendan Langley (6-1, 181, Jr.)
	Sheldon Dawson (5-11, 190, Jr.)
FS	Quincy Mauger (6-0, 200, So.)
	Tray Matthews (6-0, 196, So.)
SS	Corey Moore (6-2, 214, Sr.)
	Lucas Redd (6-1, 207, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Marshall Morgan (6-3, 200, Jr.)
P	Adam Erickson (5-10, 171, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

FLORIDA GATORS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC EAST
3

Kelvin Taylor

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Idaho	
S.6	Eastern Michigan	
S.13	Kentucky	24-7
S.20	@ ALABAMA	
O.4	@ TENNESSEE	31-17
O.11	LSU	6-17
O.18	Missouri	17-36
N.1	Georgia*	20-23
N.8	@ VANDERBILT	17-34
N.15	South Carolina	14-19
N.22	Eastern Kentucky	
N.29	@ FLORIDA STATE	7-37

* At Jacksonville, FL

COACH
Will Muschamp
Fourth year (22-16)
Career record: 22-16

Offensive coordinator: Kurt Roper (first year)
Defensive coordinator: D.J. Durkin (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 4-8
Stadium: Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)
Tickets: 800-344-2867
Site: Gainesville, Fla.
Website: gatorzone.com
Twitter: @GatorZoneFB

That sound you hear is the clock ticking–loudly–on the Will Muschamp Era at Florida.

An alarming 4-8 record last season and a tepid 22-16 mark overall in three years at Gainesville makes the seat behind Muschamp's desk the hottest in the SEC.

Unfortunately for Florida and its coach, the problem isn't just the win-loss record. It's how the Gators got there. The school that gave college football the Fun 'N' Gun offense and Tim Tebow scored 20 or fewer points in a shocking seven-game losing streak to end the season. When the carnage cleared, Florida ranked 12th or worst in the SEC's four major offensive categories (total offense, scoring offense, passing yards and rushing yards).

As any self-respecting therapist will tell you, the first step is to admit there is a problem. To that end, Muschamp sent offensive coordinator Brent Pease packing (he's now wide receivers coach with the Washington Huskies) and brought in Kurt Roper. He replaced the Gators' stodgy pro-style attack with a trendy no-huddle, spread offense.

The whole changeover was a work-in-progress when spring practice ended, but it has Muschamp whistling a positive tune.

"I think the future is bright," he says. "The responsibility of my (staff) and our expectations at the University of Florida is winning championships on and off the field. Four-and-eight is unacceptable. It's my responsibility to get it turned (around) and that's what's going to happen.

"We're going to have a good football team next year. That's not just a false sense of being positive. It's real. I feel really good about this team."

Difference-maker
Kelvin Taylor, RB

At 5-10 and 214 pounds, Taylor's low center of gravity and powerful legs make him hard to bring down. As a freshman he split carries with veteran Mack Brown last year and was the go-to back down the stretch, rushing for 410 of his 508 yards and all four of his touchdowns over the last six games.

Tyler Murphy, who started the bulk of last season's games after starting QB Jeff Driskel broke his leg Sept. 21 against Tennessee, transferred to Boston College in January. But that only cleared the field for Driskel, who appears to be a good fit for Roper's offense. There will be those who clamor for Will Grier (2014 *Parade* magazine Player of the Year) or even Skyler Mornhinweg (son of Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg), but for now both look like they'll be fighting for a backup role.

The Gators return a dependable pair of running backs in Kelvin Taylor (508 rushing yards, 4 TDs) and Mack Brown (543, 4) to help Driskel carry the load. In the receiver corps,

TAYLOR: JOHN RAOUX / AP

Quinton Dunbar (40 catches, 548 yards) leads the way. Also worth watching is oft-injured receiver/kick returner Andre Debose, who successfully petitioned the NCAA for a sixth year of eligibility.

Florida's defensive players got worn down and frustrated by the offensive ineptness last season, but the Gators were still plenty good. Florida ranked first in passing defense, second in total defense and third in scoring defense in the SEC.

Defensive end Dante Fowler Jr. (50 tackles, 10.5 for losses) is All-SEC-caliber—so good he sat out the spring game with nothing to prove. But the tackle spots, manned by Jonathan Bullard and Darious Cummings, are a concern and depth is a major issue on the line overall.

Middle linebacker Antonio Morrison (56 tackles) sat out the spring with an injury but will return. His position is a real strength for the Gators as he teams there with Michael Taylor (62 tackles).

In the secondary, Vernon Hargreaves III quickly established himself as one of the SEC's best cornerbacks in 2013 (38 tackles, 3 interceptions) but the opposite cornerback spot is up for grabs going into August between Jalen Tabor and Duke Dawson.

Austin Hardin was a dismal four-for-12 kicking field goals last season but appeared to improve during spring practice, a trend that needs to continue. Then there's the curious case of Kyle Christy, who went from Ray Guy Award finalist in 2012 to averaging 39.6 yards per punt in 2013 and being beat out by Johnny Townsend. Townsend (42.0 yards per punt) left spring practice still being the leader.

BOTTOM LINE

The mandate at Florida isn't just to win, but to win championships. Not to just eke out victories, but to win with style. That's Muschamp's mission for 2014. His Gators must not only produce at least eight or nine wins but also be more entertaining offensively.

Assuming the defense is up to performing at a similar level to 2013 and Roper will be given a free reign to jazz up the Florida offense, the Gators can again be a contender in the East. That's good enough—for now—but what qualifies as success at Florida is an upwardly mobile target.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Florida's class, which features 11 linemen, ranked No. 9 nationally. Grier and Tabor are already enrolled. Grier has a big arm and never wavered through the 2013 Gators' disappointing 4-8 campaign and a change at offensive coordinator. The Gators flipped Tabor from Arizona just a short time before he arrived in Gainesville and he gives them another elite young cornerback to complement Vernon Hargreaves. Continuing to show its recruiting reach, Florida was able to pull Willis out of Louisiana and defensive tackle Thomas Holley from Brooklyn, N.Y. Losing potential impact playmakers Dalvin Cook and Ermon Lane to Florida State did sting a bit, however.

TOP SIGNEES (247 Year Rating)

1 ▸ **Jalen Tabor,** CB ★★★★★
2 ▸ **Gerald Willis,** DT ★★★★
3 ▸ **Will Grier,** QB ★★★★

DUNBAR: PHIL SANDLIN / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

▸ PASSING

Skyler Mornhinweg	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	3	128.3	44-63-1	69.8	344	3	114.7

▸ RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Mack Brown	12	148	543	3.7	4	45.2

▸ RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Quinton Dunbar	12	40	548	13.7	0	45.7

DEFENSE

▸ TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Michael Taylor	11	30	32	62

▸ SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Dante Fowler Jr.	12	3.5	27

▸ INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Vernon Hargreaves III	3	39	13.0	0

Quinton Dunbar

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	FLA	OPP
SCORING	226	253
Points Per Game	18.8	21.1
FIRST DOWNS	213	192
Rushing	104	87
Passing	94	83
Penalty	15	22
RUSHING YARDAGE	1749	1709
Yards gained rushing	2131	1991
Yards lost rushing	382	282
Rushing Attempts	482	393
Average Per Rush	3.6	4.3
Average Per Game	145.8	142.4
TDs Rushing	14	17
PASSING YARDAGE	2051	2062
Comp-Att-Int	199-311-9	159-319-10
Average Per Pass	6.6	6.5
Average Per Catch	10.3	13.0
Average Per Game	170.9	171.8
TDs Passing	11	9
TOTAL OFFENSE	3800	3771
Total Plays	793	712
Average Per Play	4.8	5.3
Average Per Game	316.7	314.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	34-844	32-525
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	22-228	13-49
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	10-172	9-252
KICK RETURN AVG.	24.8	16.4
PUNT RETURN AVG.	10.4	3.8
INT RETURN AVG.	17.2	28.0
FUMBLES-LOST	21-11	13-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	89-711	64-545
Average Per Game	59.2	45.4
PUNTS-YARDS	51-2085	51-2170
Average Per Punt	40.9	42.5
Net punt average	36.8	37.3
TIME OF POSS./GAME	33:49	26:11
3RD-DOWN CONV.	67/172	51/150
3rd-Down Pct.	39%	34%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	11/18	8/17
4th-Down Pct.	61%	47%
SACKS BY-YARDS	19-123	27-227
MISC YARDS	-6	8
TDS SCORED	27	27
FG-ATTEMPTS	12-22	22-23
ATTENDANCE	524638	383001
Games/Avg Per Game	6/87440	5/76600
Neutral Site Games		1/84693

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Florida	39	75	54	58	0	226
Opponent	78	57	56	62	0	253

5-YEAR RECORD 43-22

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB Jeff Driskel (6-4, 239, Jr.)
Will Grier (6-2, 190, Fr.)
RB Kelvin Taylor (5-10, 214, So.)
Mack Brown (5-11, 215, Sr.)
LT D.J. Humphries (6-5, 285, Jr.)
Trenton Brown (6-8, 348, Sr.)
LG Trip Thurman (6-5, 315, Jr.)
Roderick Johnson (6-5, 316, Fr.)
C Max Garcia (6-4, 311, Sr.)
Cameron Dillard (6-4, 297, Fr.)
RG Tyler Moore (6-5, 320, Jr.)
Drew Sarvary (6-6, 318, Jr.)
RT Chaz Green (6-5, 300, Sr.)
Trenton Brown (6-8, 348, Sr.)
TE Clay Burton (6-4, 257, Sr.)
Tevin Westbrook (6-5, 255, Sr.)
WR Quinton Dunbar (6-1, 194, Sr.)
Chris Thompson (6-0, 170, So.)
WR Ahmad Fulwood (6-5, 196, So.)
Demarcus Robinson (6-2, 201, So.)
WR Valdez Showers (5-11, 190, Jr.)
Latroy Pittman Jr. (6-0, 210, Jr.)

Defense

DE Bryan Cox Jr. (6-3, 260, So.)
Joey Ivie (6-3, 270, So.)
DT Jonathan Bullard (6-3, 270, Jr.)
Caleb Brantley (6-2, 313, Fr.)
NT Darious Cummings (6-1, 305, Sr.)
Jay-nard Bostwick (6-3, 305, Fr.)
DE Dante Fowler Jr. (6-3, 266, Jr.)
Alex McCalister (6-6, 246, So.)
OLB Alex McCalister (6-6, 246, So.)
Daniel McMillian (6-1, 225, So.)
MLB Antonio Morrison (6-1, 230, Jr.)
Michael Taylor (6-0, 233, Sr.)
OLB Jarrad Davis (6-2, 226, So.)
Daniel McMillian (6-1, 225, So.)
CB Vernon Hargreaves III (5-11, 192, So.)
Nick Washington (6-0, 191, Fr.)
CB Jalen Tabor (6-1, 188, Fr.)
Duke Dawson (5-10, 190, Fr.)
S Jabari Gorman (5-10, 184, Sr.)
Marcell Harris (6-2, 215, Fr.)
S Marcus Maye (6-0, 206, So.)
Keanu Neal (6-1, 206, So.)

Specialists

K Austin Hardin (5-10, 208, So.)
P Johnny Townsend (6-1, 191, So.)

Sporting News All-American

MISSOURI TIGERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC EAST

4

Maty Mauk

On the list of surprising Tiger teams from 2013, Auburn topped Missouri by reaching the BCS Championship Game–but not by much.

Missouri won the SEC East after going 5-7 in its inaugural SEC season in 2012, beat former Big 12 rival Oklahoma State in the Cotton Bowl and matched the school record with 12 wins.

Now the question is, after losing a trio of big stars from last year's surprising team, how much of an encore performance can Mizzou be expected to deliver?

The Tigers were already going to be without All-America defensive end Michael Sam and 1,166-yard rusher Henry Josey.

But in April coach Gary Pinkel was forced to finally jettison talented but troublesome wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham. That leaves the Tigers with one more unneeded question mark on their offense.

Quarterback Maty Mauk went 3-1 as a freshman starter in place of the injured James Franklin last season, keeping Mizzou on track for its improbable run to Atlanta. Now Franklin is gone and Mauk is the man, having completed 68 of 133 passes for 1,071 yards with 11 touchdowns and two interceptions.

Russell Hansbrough (685 yards, 4 TDs) and Marcus Murphy (601 yards, 9 TDs) were capable understudies for Josey last year and will take the bulk of the carries. The bulk of the receptions without Green-Beckham will fall to players like Bud Sasser (26 catches for 361 yards) and Levi Copelin (3 for 61), but no returning player caught more than one TD pass in 2013.

Defensively, the Tigers not only lost Sam but All-SEC end Kony Ealy. But bringing back an All-SEC-caliber end in Markus Golden (55 tackles, 6.5 sacks) will soften the blow. He may well be Missouri's best player at any position.

Middle linebacker Kentrell Brothers, who recorded 70 stops in 2013, missed most of the spring with shoulder surgery but should be ready come August. The Tigers return two solid specialists in junior placekicker Andrew Baggett (18-of-25 on field goals, 66-for-69 on extra points) and senior punter Christian Brinser (41.0 yards per punt).

BOTTOM LINE

In the wide-open SEC East it would be unwise to write off the Tigers now that they've been to the mountaintop. Missouri plays one of the more favorable schedules around.

Difference-maker

Maty Mauk, QB

After splitting time with James Franklin under center last year, Mauk has the opportunity to be the undisputed leader of the Missouri offense. In 10 games and just four starts, he gave the coaching staff plenty of reasons to be confident, throwing for 1,071 yards and 11 TDs, including a 96-yarder to L'Damien Washington against South Carolina.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	South Dakota State	
S.6	@ TOLEDO	38-23
S.13	UCF	
S.20	Indiana	45-28
S.27	@ SOUTH CAROLINA	24-27
O.11	Georgia	41-26
O.18	@ FLORIDA	36-17
O.25	Vanderbilt	51-28
N.1	Kentucky	48-17
N.15	@ TEXAS A&M	28-21
N.22	@ TENNESSEE	31-3
N.29	Arkansas	

COACH

Gary Pinkel
14th year (102-63)
Career record: 175-100-3

Offensive coordinator: Josh Henson (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Dave Steckel (sixth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 12-2
(Beat Oklahoma State in the Cotton Bowl, 41-31)
Stadium: Faurot Field (71,004)
Tickets: 800-CAT-PAWS
Site: Columbia, Mo.
Website: mutigers.com
Twitter: @mutigersdotcom

5-YEAR RECORD 43-22

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Maty Mauk (6-0, 200, So.)
RB	Russell Hansbrough (5-9, 190, Jr.)
LT	Mitch Morse (6-6, 305, Sr.)
LG	Anthony Gatti (6-6, 315, Sr.)
C	Evan Boehm (6-3, 315, Jr.)
RG	Mitch L. Hall (6-5, 320, Jr.)
RT	Connor McGovern (6-4, 310, Jr.)
TE	Sean Culkin (6-6, 245, So.)
WR	Levi Copelin (6-2, 190, So.)
WR	Bud Sasser (6-2, 210, Sr.)
WR	Darius White (6-3, 205, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Markus Golden (6-3, 260, Sr.)
DT	Matt Hoch (6-5, 295, Sr.)
NG	Lucas Vincent (6-2, 305, Sr.)
DE	Shane Ray (6-3, 245, Jr.)
OLB	Darvin Ruise (6-1, 240, Sr.)
MLB	Kentrell Brothers (6-1, 240, Jr.)
OLB	Michael Scherer (6-3, 235, So.)
CB	John Gibson (6-0, 185, So.)
CB	Aarion Penton (5-10, 185, So.)
FS	Ian Simon (6-0, 195, Jr.)
SS	Braylon Webb (6-0, 205, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Andrew Baggett (6-1, 215, Jr.)
P	Christian Brinser (6-2, 200, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

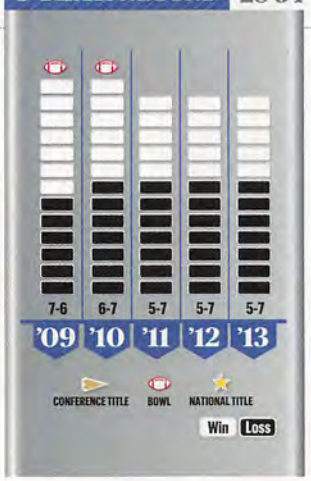
1. **Andy Bauer,** OL ★★★★
2. **Brandon Lee,** LB ★★★★
3. **Nate Brown,** WR ★★★★

Thanks in part to an SEC East championship last season, the Tigers gained some momentum down the stretch of the cycle and finished with a good, versatile class that ranked No. 39 nationally. Bauer was committed to Ole Miss for a chunk of the cycle before flipping back to Mizzou. Four-star cornerback Raymond Wingo of St. Louis appeared headed for Arkansas (where his brother played) before electing to stay in-state and the Tigers held off late offers from Georgia and South Carolina for the 6-3, 210-pound Brown, who had an outstanding senior season.

MAUK: JAMES CRISP / AP

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

5-YEAR RECORD 28-34



Devrin Young

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC EAST
5

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Justin Worley (6-4, 224, Sr.)
RB	Marlin Lane (5-11, 210, Sr.)
LT	Jacob Gilliam (6-4, 296, Sr.)
LG	Marcus Jackson (6-2, 304, Jr.)
C	Mack Crowder (6-2, 286, Jr.)
RG	Kyler Kerbyson (6-4, 304, Jr.)
RT	Coleman Thomas (6-6, 311, Fr.)
TE	Alex Ellis (6-4, 240, Jr.)
WR	Marquez North (6-4, 221, So.)
WR	Josh Malone (6-3, 202, Fr.)
WR	Von Pearson (6-3, 181, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Corey Vereen (6-2, 248, So.)
DT	Owen Williams (6-2, 289, Jr.)
DT	Jordan Williams (6-5, 272, Sr.)
DE	Curt Maggitt (6-3, 244, Jr.)
OLB	Jalen Reeves-Maybin (6-1, 214, So.)
MLB	A.J. Johnson (6-2, 242, Sr.)
CB	Cameron Sutton (6-1, 180, So.)
CB	Emmanuel Moseley (5-11, 165, Fr.)
CB	Justin Coleman (5-10, 190, Sr.)
FS	LaDarrell McNeil (6-1, 204, Jr.)
SS	Brian Randolph (6-0, 197, Jr.)

Specialists

K	George Bullock (6-0, 209, So.)
P	Matt Darr (6-1, 219, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

247 YEAR RATING

1 Josh Malone, WR ★★★★★
2 Jalen Hurd, RB ★★★★★
3 Todd Kelly, S ★★★★

Perhaps no class will impact a single program more than this vast, deep (No. 7 nationally) class Butch Jones attracted to Knoxville. The Vols ended up signing 32 total, including 14 early enrollees. Malone, Hurd and Kelly are top-10 prospects from Tennessee, where the '14 and '15 cycles have seen an uptick in talent. Help from the junior-college ranks is already on campus in the form of offensive tackle Dontavius Blair, defensive tackle Owen Williams and receiver Von Pearson. Keep an eye on another early enrollee in Jakob Johnson, a 6-4, 230-pound linebacker who grew up in Germany.

Call it the "Volunteer Generation."

The first signing class of the Butch Jones Era at Tennessee brought an immense overhaul of the Vols' roster. Tennessee signed 32 players in a consensus top-10 class, with 14 of them arriving in January as early enrollees.

Many of those freshmen and newcomers will be thrown immediately into key roles. That's great for their experience–long term.

For the 2014 season, though, it could mean a bumpy ride, especially in the trenches. The Vols are replacing a talented and veteran offensive line from 2013 and their top five players off of last year's defensive line.

Senior Justin Worley is the incumbent at quarterback after throwing for 1,239 yards with 10 touchdowns and eight interceptions last season, but his job is hardly secure. Expect the competition between Worley, sophomore Josh Dobbs and redshirt freshman Riley Ferguson to carry into August.

Whoever wins the quarterback job will do a lot of handing off and throwing to two of Tennessee's five-star newcomers: running back Jalen Hurd and wide receiver Josh Malone. Marquez North, who caught 38 passes for a team-high 496 yards as a freshman, is the veteran of the group–if he can be called that. Highly touted junior-college transfer Von Pearson could nab the third receiving role.

The offensive line is anchored by senior Jacob Gilliam at left tackle and true freshman Coleman Thomas on the right, with three juniors in between them. Combined, the group has played in just 22 games, with one start in 2013 by center Mack Crowder.

It's a similar story on the defensive front (21 games, 3 starts). Junior Curt Maggitt moves down from linebacker to end after having missed last season following ACL surgery as the Vols go in search of a better pass rush (18 sacks in 2013).

Senior middle linebacker A.J. Johnson (106 tackles) is the mainstay of the defensive unit, while junior strong safety Brian Randolph (75 tackles, 4 interceptions) anchors a secondary that surrendered 211.1 yards per game passing last year.

Difference-maker

Devrin Young, RB/WR

An all-purpose player, Young has made an impact as a receiver and a running back, but he has been most explosive as a return man in his three years on Rocky Top. Last season he was on pace for his best campaign while averaging 25.9 yards per return, but a broken hand prior to the second game of the season caused him to miss five games. His presence gives the Vols a threat to take it to the house at any time on special teams.

BOTTOM LINE

Inexperience like Tennessee's along the lines is tempting a dire fate in the SEC, and the road schedule is daunting.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.31	Utah State	
S.6	Arkansas State	
S.13	@ OKLAHOMA	
S.27	@ GEORGIA	31-34
O.4	Florida	17-31
O.11	Chattanooga	
O.18	@ OLE MISS	
O.25	Alabama	10-45
N.1	@ SOUTH CAROLINA	23-21
N.15	Kentucky	27-14
N.22	Missouri	3-31
N.29	@ VANDERBILT	10-14

COACH

Butch Jones
Second year (5-7)
Career record: 55-34

Offensive coordinator: Mike Bajakian (second year)
Defensive coordinator: John Jancek (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 5-7
Stadium: Neyland Stadium (102,455)
Tickets: 800-332-VOLS
Site: Knoxville, Tenn.
Website: utsports.com
Twitter: @Vol_Football

YOUNG: GARRY JONES / AP

VANDERBILT COMMODORES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

SEC EAST

6

Jerron Seymour

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Temple	
S.6	Ole Miss	35-39
S.13	Massachusetts	24-7
S.20	South Carolina	25-35
S.27	@ KENTUCKY	22-6
O.4	@ GEORGIA	31-27
O.11	Charleston Southern	
O.25	@ MISSOURI	28-51
N.1	Old Dominion	
N.8	Florida	34-17
N.22	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE	
N.29	Tennessee	14-10

COACH

Derek Mason
First year

Offensive coordinator: Karl Dorrell (first year)
Defensive coordinator: David Kotulski (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 9-4
(Beat Houston in the BBVA Compass Bowl, 41-24)
Stadium: Vanderbilt Stadium (40,550)
Tickets: 615-322-GOLD
Site: Nashville
Website: vucommodores.com
Twitter: @VandyFootball

There's a new face on the Vanderbilt Wall of Fame.

The mural near campus features the faces of Vandy's coaches in the big four sports (football, baseball, men's and women's basketball), but it needed a surprising mid-January alteration when football coach James Franklin abruptly left for Penn State. Angry Vandy followers had Franklin's face covered up with a sheet until it was warm enough to paint him over with the image of new coach Derek Mason.

Stanford's defensive coordinator the last three seasons, Mason inherits a Vandy program that Franklin left in strong shape. The Commodores went to three straight bowls and are coming off back-to-back nine-win seasons for the first time in program history.

Despite losing eight starters to graduation, Vandy should be adept at Mason's specialty: defense. The new coach brings with him a 3-4 scheme that suits Vandy's personnel well. Senior Vince Taylor (18 tackles in 2013) anchors the line from the nose tackle spot.

Senior Kyle Woestmann (40 tackles, six sacks) slides from defensive end in the old 4-3 scheme to outside linebacker. He'll start alongside junior inside linebacker Darreon Herring, Vandy's top returning tackler with 84 stops.

The entire starting secondary must be replaced, including All-SEC DBs Andre Hal and Kenny Ladler. Sophomores Torren McGaster and Paris Head take over at cornerback, while Andrew Williamson and Jahmel McIntosh man the safety spots.

Sophomore quarterback Patton Robinette (642 yards passing, four touchdowns, five interceptions) started the BBVA Compass Bowl after Austyn Carta-Samuels was ruled out with a knee injury and is the man to beat going into the season. But he could be pushed out by redshirt freshman Johnny McCrary.

Jerron Seymour (716 yards, 14 TDs) returns at running back but will be challenged by fellow junior Brian Kimbrow (341 yards, 3 TDs). Either Jordan Cunningham or Kris Kentera will need to become a go-to receiver to replace departed All-SEC wideout Jordan Matthews.

Difference-maker

Brian Kimbrow, RB

In Jerron Seymour the Commodores have a dependable, grind-it-out tailback. But Kimbrow has the speed to break the big runs critical to an offense that will fight for every yard and point it gets.

BOTTOM LINE

The Commodores should sail through what is perhaps the SEC's easiest nonconference schedule, starting Aug. 28 against Temple. Winnable games with Charleston Southern, Old Dominion and UMass follow, meaning Vandy only has to win two league games to be bowl-eligible a fourth straight year.

5-YEAR RECORD 28-35

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Patton Robinette (6-4, 214, So.)
FB	Kellen Williams (6-1, 230, Sr.)
RB	Jerron Seymour (5-7, 200, Jr.)
LT	Andrew Jelks (6-6, 305, Sr.)
LG	Jake Bernstein (6-4, 305, Jr.)
C	Joe Townsend (6-4, 310, Sr.)
RG	Spencer Pulley (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RT	Andrew Bridges (6-6, 280, Sr.)
TE	Steven Scheu (6-5, 255, Jr.)
WR	Kris Kentera (6-4, 220, Jr.)
WR	Jordan Cunningham (6-1, 178, So.)

Defense

DE	Barron Dixon (6-4, 308, So.)
NT	Vince Taylor (6-2, 310, Sr.)
DE	Adam Butler (6-4, 305, So.)
OLB	Caleb Azubike (6-4, 260, Jr.)
ILB	Jake Sealand (6-2, 230, Jr.)
ILB	Darreon Herring (6-1, 232, Jr.)
OLB	Kyle Woestmann (6-3, 252, Sr.)
CB	Torren McGaster (6-0, 192, So.)
CB	Paris Head (6-0, 185, So.)
FS	Andrew Williamson (6-1, 210, Jr.)
SS	Jahmel McIntosh (6-1, 205, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Tommy Openshaw (6-2, 175, Fr.)
P	Colby Cooke (6-3, 208, So.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

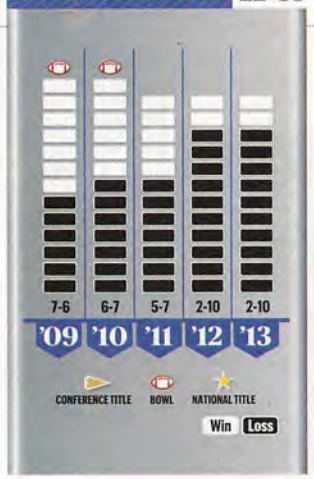
1. **Nifae Lealao,** DE/DT ★★★★
2. **Emmanuel Smith,** S ★★★★
3. **Dallas Rivers,** RB/ATH ★★★

The departure of coach James Franklin to Penn State reshaped this class significantly, as five former Commodore commits ended up leaving for the Nittany Lions, two with Tennessee and one with Kentucky, among others. Still, new head coach Derek Mason ended up with a good class that was ranked No. 45 nationally. Leleao was a Stanford commit when Mason was there and is the highest-rated signee in Vandy history. Smith, from nearby Murfreesboro, Tenn., was one of the local standouts who stuck, and flipping quarterback Wade Freeback from Pitt late was a big recruiting win.

SEYMOUR: MARK HUMPHREY / AP

KENTUCKY WILDCATS

5-YEAR RECORD 22-40



Javess Blue

BLUE: TJAMES CRISP / AP

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Drew Barker (6-3, 216, Fr.)
FB D.J. Warren (6-0, 250, Sr.)
RB Jojo Kemp (5-10, 196, So.)
LT Darrian Miller (6-5, 292, Sr.)
LG Zach West (6-4, 308, Jr.)
C Jon Toth (6-5, 298, So.)
RG Ramsey Meyers (6-4, 305, Fr.)
RT Jordan Swindle (6-7, 304, Jr.)
TE Steven Borden (6-3, 242, Sr.)
WR Javess Blue (6-0, 190, Sr.)
WR Ryan Timmons (5-10, 193, So.)

Defense

DE Bud Dupree (6-4, 267, Sr.)
DT Mike Douglas (6-4, 293, Sr.)
DT Reggie Meant (6-4, 294, Fr.)
DE Za'Darius Smith (6-6, 264, Sr.)
OLB Josh Forrest (6-3, 229, Jr.)
MLB Ryan Flannigan (6-1, 220, Jr.)
OLB Khalid Henderson (6-1, 231, Jr.)
CB Cody Quinn (5-10, 172, Jr.)
CB Nate Wills (6-0, 174, Sr.)
FS Ashley Lowery (6-1, 215, Sr.)
SS A.J. Stamps (6-0, 185, Jr.)

Specialists

K Austin MacGinnis (5-10, 166, Fr.)
P Landon Foster (6-1, 208, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

247 STAR RATING

1 ▸ **Drew Barker,** QB ★★★★
2 ▸ **Matt Elam,** DT ★★★★
3 ▸ **Darius West,** S ★★★★

In the first full recruiting cycle under coach Mark Stoops, the Wildcats were one of the big storylines nationally, finishing with the No. 22 class in the country. Kentucky ended up with four of the top five in-state prospects and held off Alabama for the 6-4, 370-pound Elam (Elizabethtown) late in the cycle. Stoops and staff, led by assistant Vince Marrow, placed an emphasis on heading north to Ohio and landed 11 Buckeye State prospects, including West and running back Mikel Horton from Lakota West. Along with Barker and seven others, Horton has already enrolled in Lexington.

Like a struggling company trying to transform itself, work is under way to create a leaner, more nimble Kentucky football program.

The progress can be seen at 41-year-old Commonwealth Stadium, where a $110 million project is actually lowering seating capacity from 67,000 to 61,000 in 2015 but is adding premium seating and improved fan amenities along with creating a sleek, more modern look. Second-year coach Mark Stoops and staff are doing their heavy lifting, too, having attracted the best back-to-back recruiting classes in school history.

It must be said that the improvements are being done with an eye to the future. This season, on the field and in the stands around it, will be a bridge to what is hoped will be a better, brighter tomorrow.

For now, UK football is still dogged by some of the same old questions, starting with the name of the starting quarterback.

Junior Maxwell Smith is perhaps gone for good after a second shoulder injury, leaving the QB race to sophomore Patrick Towles and early enrollee Drew Barker. All are similar talents and none have thrown a pass for UK, but the smart money is betting on Stoops building for the future around Barker.

At running back, Jojo Kemp (482 yards, 3 TDs in 2013) and Nebraska transfer Braylon Heard (he prepped at Stoops' alma mater, Cardinal Mooney in Youngstown, Ohio) will likely carry the load along with Josh Clemons, who's back after tearing up his Achilles' tendon last year. Senior Javess Blue (43 catches, 586 yards, 4 TDs) leads a raft of receivers.

On defense, Alvin "Bud" Dupree (61 tackles, 7 sacks) is arguably UK's best player and one of the best ends in the SEC. A pair of junior-college transfers—Ryan Flannigan from Blinn (Texas) and A.J. Stamps from East Mississippi CC—are expected to come in and take over at middle linebacker and safety, respectively.

Austin MacGinnis, one of the top signees from Stoops' first recruiting class, steps in at placekicker to replace the departed Joe Mansour. Returning punter Landon Foster averaged 41.3 yards per kick last season.

Difference-maker

Alvin "Bud" Dupree, DE

Already the Wildcats' top returning tackler, Dupree packed on 15 pounds during the offseason to grow into the kind of NFL-style defensive end Stoops prefers. He has also developed into the most vocal leader on the defense—fitting for UK's best player on either side of the ball.

BOTTOM LINE

The schedule allows the Wildcats to build some momentum with early games against Tennessee-Martin and Ohio. Pushing the record from 2-10 to four or five wins seems reasonable.

7 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC EAST

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Tennessee-Martin	
S.6	Ohio	
S.13	@ FLORIDA	7-24
S.27	Vanderbilt	6-22
O.4	South Carolina	28-35
O.11	Louisiana-Monroe	
O.18	@ LSU	
O.25	Mississippi State	22-28
N.1	@ MISSOURI	17-48
N.8	Georgia	17-59
N.15	@ TENNESSEE	14-27
N.29	@ LOUISVILLE	13-27

COACH

Mark Stoops
Second year (2-10)
Career record: 2-10

Offensive coordinator: Neal Brown (second year)
Defensive coordinator: D.J. Eliot (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 2-10
Stadium: Commonwealth Stadium (67,606)
Tickets: 800-928-2287
Site: Lexington, Ky.
Website: ukathletics.com
Twitter: @UKFootball

ALABAMA
CRIMSON TIDE

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC WEST
1

Amari Cooper

2014 SN NATIONAL RANK 4

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	West Virginia*	
S.6	Florida Atlantic	
S.13	Southern Miss	
S.20	Florida	
O.4	@ OLE MISS	25-0
O.11	@ ARKANSAS	52-0
O.18	Texas A&M	49-42
O.25	@ TENNESSEE	45-10
N.8	@ LSU	38-17
N.15	Mississippi State	20-7
N.22	Western Carolina	
N.29	Auburn	28-34

* At Atlanta

COACH
Nick Saban
Eighth year (79-15)
Career record: 170-57-1

Offensive coordinator: Lane Kiffin (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Kirby Smart (seventh year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 11-2
(Lost to Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl, 45-31)
Stadium: Bryant-Denny Stadium (101,821)
Tickets: 205-348-BAMA
Site: Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Website: rolltide.com
Twitter: @AlabamaFTBL

Even "the process" doesn't guarantee perfection.

Alabama was steaming toward a shot at an unprecedented third straight BCS national championship last season when the Crimson Tide got a "Kick Six" to the midsection by Chris Davis' 100 plus-yard missed field goal return in a 34-28 loss to Auburn to end the regular season.

Five weeks later, Alabama was in New Orleans for the consolation prize of a Sugar Bowl appearance against Oklahoma. The Crimson Tide played like it, falling 45-31 to the Sooners with the most points allowed in the Nick Saban era.

Alabama may not have managed to win a fourth BCS title under Saban last year, but it did capture another national recruiting title, meaning the talent pipeline into Tuscaloosa is flowing as strong as ever.

Still, there could be some bottlenecks, starting at quarterback, where the steady hands of AJ McCarron have finally departed the program.

Under the watchful eye of new offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin, a surprising choice by Saban after Kiffin was fired as head coach at USC, Blake Sims emerged as the leader at the end of spring practice from a five-man tournament to be McCarron's successor.

It was somewhat like winning a war of attrition. Sims struggled in the spring game, completing just 13 of 30 passes for 178 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions.

The Crimson Tide nation turns its anxious eyes toward Jacob Coker, a Mobile, Ala., native transferring in from Florida State with two years of eligibility remaining. Like the adage about the Masters not beginning until the back nine on Sunday, the feeling around the Alabama program is the race for the starting quarterback job won't begin until Coker suits up for preseason practice.

Whoever wins the race, he's almost certain to run a lot of plays that go this way: snap, step, hand off to T.J. Yeldon or Derrick Henry.

Yeldon bulled for 1,235 yards and 14 touchdowns rushing last season. Henry had 382 yards and three TDs, including an impressive eight-carry, 100-yard effort against Oklahoma.

Bama brings back five of its top six receivers from 2013, led by Amari Cooper (45 catches, 736 yards, four TDs). Christion Jones (36 catches, 349 yards, two TDs) is a dual threat as a kick returner, while tight end O.J.

Difference-maker
Amari Cooper, WR

Cooper is already one of the top performing receivers in Crimson Tide history. In two seasons he has accumulated 104 receptions for 1,736 yards and 15 touchdowns. This season should test him as a leader and reveal his true value as a playmaker with Alabama's quarterback position up in the air for the first time in several years.

COOPER: DAVE MARTIN / AP

Howard (14 catches, 269 yards, two TDs) will also be counted on.

Along the offensive line there is a gaping hole at left tackle where Cyrus Kouandjio used to be. Bama coaches tinkered with several possibilities, including starting sophomore Brandon Greene, but the most likely scenario has highly touted true freshman Cameron Robinson moving in next to Cyrus' older brother, Arie, at left guard.

The Crimson Tide allowed just 106.2 yards rushing per game last season but managed just 17 sacks. That number figures go up with the addition of junior-college transfer Jarran Reed at defensive end to go with senior nose tackle Brandon Ivory and fellow end A'Shawn Robinson.

As usual, the linebacker corps is a strength, led this season by senior inside man Trey DePriest (65 tackles, two sacks, interception). Outside linebacker Dillon Lee was charged with a DUI at the end of spring practice, throwing a tinge of doubt on his eligibility.

The secondary suffered a blow when starting cornerback Eddie Jackson tore an ACL in early spring, leaving questions as to whether he will be back for the season opener. Junior Bradley Sylve moved into his spot opposite Cyrus Jones, while Landon Collins and Geno Smith occupy the safety slots.

The one position that has been iffy for Alabama in recent years is placekicker, where Adam Griffith (1-for-3 on field goals, 5-of-5 on PATs last year) takes over from Cade Foster. Alec Morris replaces longtime punter Cody Mandell for now, but will be pushed by frosh J.K. Scott.

BOTTOM LINE

Alabama has serious issues at quarterback and on the offensive line, and the defense was less dominant in 2013 than usual. And there is the disturbing sign that for the second time in his tenure Saban was unable to engage his team in playing well in the Sugar Bowl. But these are nitpicking points for a program that has established new levels of focus and productivity. If Bama looks a bit more human this year it only means it has come back to an elite pack instead of setting an impossible standard. And that means the Crimson Tide has as good a chance as anyone of being in the College Football Playoff.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247SPORTS

Alabama finished with the No. 1 class for the fourth consecutive recruiting cycle and on paper (319.58 score based on 247Sports' Composite Rankings) it was the top class of the Nick Saban era. On Signing Day, the Crimson Tide landed the top outside linebacker in the country, Rashaan Evans from Auburn (Ala.) High, topping their in-state rivals and the local favorite. That was a trend for 'Bama in the 2014 cycle as the Tide was not considered the favorite by the experts heading into the decisions of Hand or Brown, either. Robinson and Brown lead a list of nine early enrollees.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Cameron Robinson, OT ★★★★★
2. Da'Shawn Hand, DE ★★★★★
3. Tony Brown, CB ★★★★★

YELDON: ROGELIO SOLIS/AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Blake Sims	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	8	133.2	18-29-0	62.1	167	2	20.9

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
T.J. Yeldon	12	207	1235	6.0	14	102.9

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Amari Cooper	12	45	736	16.4	4	61.3

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Landon Collins	13	52	18	70

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
A'Shawn Robinson	13	5.5	34

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Landon Collins	2	89	44.5	1
Cyrus Jones	2	1	0.5	0

T.J. Yeldon

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	ALA	OPP
SCORING	496	181
Points Per Game	38.2	13.9
FIRST DOWNS	302	194
Rushing	142	78
Passing	141	101
Penalty	19	15
RUSHING YARDAGE	2673	1381
Yards gained rushing	2898	1612
Yards lost rushing	225	231
Rushing Attempts	461	416
Average Per Rush	5.8	3.3
Average Per Game	205.6	106.2
TDs Rushing	28	8
PASSING YARDAGE	3230	2344
Comp-Att-Int	244-365-7	197-355-11
Average Per Pass	8.8	6.6
Average Per Catch	13.2	11.9
Average Per Game	248.5	180.3
TDs Passing	30	13
TOTAL OFFENSE	5903	3725
Total Plays	826	771
Average Per Play	7.1	4.8
Average Per Game	454.1	286.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	31-736	68-1400
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	29-413	13-58
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	11-253	7-129
KICK RETURN AVG.	23.7	20.6
PUNT RETURN AVG.	14.2	4.5
INT RETURN AVG.	23.0	18.4
FUMBLES-LOST	14-10	20-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	63-520	71-560
Average Per Game	40.0	43.1
PUNTS-YARDS	40-1875	81-3401
Average Per Punt	46.9	42.0
Net punt average	42.4	35.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:00	28:00
3RD-DOWN CONV.	70/147	61/176
3rd-Down Pct.	48%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/12	5/19
4th-Down Pct.	58%	26%
SACKS BY-YARDS	22-145	17-118
MISC YARDS	0	71
TDS SCORED	65	23
FG-ATTEMPTS	13-20	7-10
ATTENDANCE	710538	302131
Games/Avg Per Game	7/101505	4/75533
Neutral Site Games		2/71794

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Alabama	110	190	104	92	0	496
Opponent	42	41	43	55	0	181

5-YEAR RECORD 60-7

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Blake Sims (6-0, 202, Sr.)
	Jacob Coker (6-5, 230, Jr.)
HB	Jalston Fowler (6-1, 250, Sr.)
	Corey McCarron (6-2, 238, Jr.)
RB	T.J. Yeldon (6-2, 218, Jr.)
	Derrick Henry (6-3, 238, So.)
LT	Cameron Robinson (6-6, 325, Fr.)
	Brandon Greene (6-5, 307, So.)
LG	Arie Kouandjio (6-5, 315, Sr.)
	Isaac Luatua (6-2, 313, Jr.)
C	Ryan Kelly (6-5, 290, Jr.)
	Grant Hill (6-6, 301, So.)
RG	Leon Brown (6-6, 313, Sr.)
	Alphonse Taylor (6-5, 335, So.)
RT	Austin Shepherd (6-5, 315, Sr.)
	Grant Hill (6-6, 301, So.)
TE	O.J. Howard (6-6, 237, So.)
	Brian Vogler (6-7, 260, Sr.)
WR	Amari Cooper (6-1, 202, Jr.)
	Chris Black (6-0, 167, So.)
WR	DeAndrew White (6-0, 190, Sr.)
	Raheem Falkins (6-4, 203, So.)

Defense

DE	A'Shawn Robinson (6-4, 320, So.)
	D.J. Pettway (6-2, 255, Jr.)
NT	Brandon Ivory (6-4, 310, Sr.)
	Darren Lake (6-3, 324, Jr.)
DE	Jarran Reed (6-4, 310, Jr.)
	Jonathan Allen (6-3, 264, So.)
OLB	Denzel Devall (6-2, 250, Jr.)
	Xzavier Dickson (6-3, 265, Sr.)
ILB	Trey DePriest (6-2, 245, Sr.)
	Shaun Dion Hamilton (6-0, 240, Fr.)
ILB	Reggie Ragland (6-2, 259, Jr.)
	Ruben Foster (6-1, 244, So.)
OLB	Dillon Lee (6-4, 242, Jr.)
	Tim Williams (6-3, 235, So.)
CB	Bradley Sylve (5-11, 180, Jr.)
	Eddie Jackson (6-0, 175, So.)
CB	Cyrus Jones (5-10, 196, Jr.)
	Tony Brown (6-0, 190, Fr.)
FS	Geno Smith (6-0, 186, Jr.)
	Nick Perry (6-1, 212, Sr.)
SS	Landon Collins (6-0, 215, Jr.)
	Jabriel Washington (5-11, 185, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Adam Griffith (5-10, 187, So.)
P	Alec Morris (6-3, 230, So.)

Sporting News All-American

AUBURN TIGERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC WEST
2

Nick Marshall

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Arkansas	35-17
S.6	San Jose State	
S.20	@ KANSAS STATE	
S.27	Louisiana Tech	
O.4	LSU	21-35
O.11	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE	24-20
O.25	South Carolina	
N.1	@ OLE MISS	30-22
N.8	Texas A&M	45-41
N.15	@ GEORGIA	43-38
N.22	Samford	
N.29	@ ALABAMA	34-28

COACH
Gus Malzahn
Second year (12-2)
Career record: 21-5

Offensive coordinators:
Rhett Lashlee (second year)
Dameyune Craig (second year)
Defensive coordinators:
Ellis Johnson (second year)
Charlie Harbison (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 12-2
(Lost to Florida State in the BCS National Championship, 34-31)
Stadium: Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451)
Tickets: 855-282-2010
Site: Auburn, Ala.
Website: auburntigers.com
Twitter: @FootballAU

And for their next trick ...

Even now there is a shred of disbelief that the Auburn Tigers did what they did last season–going from 3-9 (0-8 in SEC play) in 2012 to 12-2 and within 13 seconds of a second BCS national championship in four years.

The Tigers came up short of that seemingly impossible dream against Florida State, yes, but it doesn't make what they managed to accomplish much less amazing: becoming the first team in SEC history to go from winless to an outright conference championship in one year.

Now it's fair to ask was last season something firm like the turf in Jordan-Hare Stadium or a fluke? Was it a good team with a hard-to-handle offense that hit back-to-back lottery tickets (See the Miracle at Jordan-Hare against Georgia and "Kick, Bama, Kick!" two weeks later) or the start of a new era of consistent greatness unseen on the Plains since the Pat Dye Era?

There is plenty of reason to believe in the latter, and it starts with senior quarterback Nick Marshall.

Auburn is one of the few teams in the SEC to return a proven winner behind center. The Marshall plan for 2014 is to continue the upward track of improvement he displayed throughout the 2013 season, when he threw for 1,976 yards and 14 touchdowns and rushed for 1,068 and 12 more scores.

A "poor man's Cam Newton," if you will, but Marshall will have the chance to do something Newton didn't attempt at Auburn: a brilliant encore.

Unfortunately, Marshall won't have Tre Mason to hand off to anymore. Mason's 317 carries, school-record 1,816 yards and school record-tying 23 touchdowns will have to be replaced by more than one man. The Tigers will look to Cameron Artis-Payne (610 yards, 6 TDs in 2013), Corey Grant (647, 6) and Peyton Barber, who spent the offseason recovering from a foot injury suffered in Auburn's spring game.

Four of Auburn's top five pass catchers return: Sammie Coates (902 yards, 7 TDs), Ricardo Louis (he caught the "miracle" 73-yard, fourth-down tipped TD catch against Georgia), Quan Bray (195, 3) and tight end C.J. Uzomah (154, 3). Highly regarded junior-college wideout D'haquille Williams ended the spring looking like he would scoop up a starting receiver spot.

Auburn's biggest hole to fill isn't at running

Difference-maker
Nick Marshall, QB

Marshall and running back Tre Mason elevated the Tigers in the same way Cam Newton and Michael Dyer did in 2010. Only this time there won't be a dramatic drop-off following the National Championship Game, as was the case in 2011. Despite Mason's departure, Marshall and his 2,782 total yards return to the Plains with most of the offensive personnel still in place.

MARSHALL: DANNY JOHNSTON/AP

back but left tackle, where projected first-round NFL draft choice Greg Robinson left a huge void. Auburn coaches spent the spring rotating Avery Young (a nine-game starter at right tackle in '13) and Patrick Miller into that spot, with the likelihood that Young would stick there and Miller would take over on the right. Center Reese Dismukes is likely to add to the All-America honors he earned in 2013 and wind up as Auburn's best center since two-time All-American Ben Tamburello.

Dee Ford's departure at defensive tackle left nearly as big a chasm on that side of the ball, one that sophomore Carl Lawson has been charged with filling. Glowing reports of Lawson's dominance during spring practice were tempered by a knee injury of undetermined severity (though he is expected back for the season).

Cassanova McKinzy led Auburn with 75 tackles last season and returns to run the Tigers' defense as the hub of its 4-2-5 scheme alongside outside linebacker Kris Frost (59 stops). The secondary is mostly experienced with Jermaine Whitehead (65 tackles) back at safety, Jonathon Mincy (56) returning at cornerback and Robenson Therezie (57 tackles, 4 interceptions) at the Star position. Another touted juco transfer, Derrick Moncrief, looks ready to take over at the other safety spot, while sophomore Kamryn Melton has the look of a starter at the remaining cornerback position.

The Tigers have two freshman kickers, and that adds a tinge of danger to any season. Daniel Carlson replaces the reliable Cody Parkey at kicker, while Jimmy Hutchinson takes over the punting duties for Steven Clark.

BOTTOM LINE

There are two possibilities heading into Auburn's 2014 season: The Tigers were simply incredibly lucky last season, or they really are very, very good. In Auburn, optimism is naturally high, and there's certainly a confidence and swagger surrounding the program that wasn't there a year ago. To even come close to reprising 2013, though, the Tigers have to stay healthy–Marshall above all.

But there is a strong possibility Auburn could maybe drop the right game inside each SEC division, still make it to Atlanta, win there and be poised to nab one of the four spots in the inaugural College Football Playoff. That wouldn't be a bad trick, either.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

Auburn capitalized on its run to the BCS title game with the nation's No. 6 class and four of the top seven prospects in Alabama. Thomas could play right away, along with Williams and Smith, a Kansan who is an outstanding fit for the Tigers' scheme and could very well put on a show as a blocker. The player to keep an eye on the most this coming season, however, is receiver D'haquille Williams from Gulf Coast (Miss.) JC, the No. 1 junior-college prospect in the country. The 6-4 Williams already has enrolled at Auburn (one of five) and could be a major weapon right away given his immense talent.

TOP SIGNEES 247 Composite

1. Roc Thomas, RB ★★★★★
2. Tre Williams, LB ★★★★★
3. Braden Smith, OL ★★★★

COATES: BUTCH DILL / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Nick Marshall	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	143.2	142-239-6	59.4	1976	14	152.0

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Nick Marshall	13	172	1068	6.2	12	82.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Sammie Coates	14	42	902	21.5	7	64.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Cassanova McKinzy	14	43	32	75

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Carl Lawson	14	4.0	18

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Robenson Therezie	4	99	24.8	1

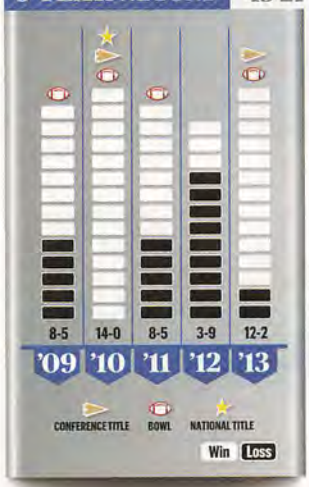
Sammie Coates

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	AUB	OPP
SCORING	553	346
Points Per Game	39.5	24.7
FIRST DOWNS	334	288
Rushing	229	116
Passing	90	152
Penalty	15	20
RUSHING YARDAGE	4596	2270
Yards gained rushing	4860	2598
Yards lost rushing	264	328
Rushing Attempts	729	495
Average Per Rush	6.3	4.6
Average Per Game	328.3	162.1
TDs Rushing	48	19
PASSING YARDAGE	2422	3620
Comp-Att-Int	173-285-8	286-494-13
Average Per Pass	8.5	7.3
Average Per Catch	14.0	12.7
Average Per Game	173.0	258.6
TDs Passing	20	19
TOTAL OFFENSE	7018	5890
Total Plays	1014	989
Average Per Play	6.9	6.0
Average Per Game	501.3	420.7
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	40-936	28-722
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	32-377	5-35
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-112	8-64
KICK RETURN AVG.	23.4	25.8
PUNT RETURN AVG.	11.8	7.0
INT RETURN AVG.	8.6	8.0
FUMBLES-LOST	30-11	16-6
PENALTIES-YARDS	70-569	80-600
Average Per Game	40.6	42.9
PUNTS-YARDS	56-2385	76-3334
Average Per Punt	42.6	43.9
Net punt average	40.5	36.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:22	29:38
3RD-DOWN CONV.	87/187	66/200
3rd-Down Pct.	47%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/15	13/28
4th-Down Pct.	53%	46%
SACKS BY-YARDS	32-223	18-121
MISC YARDS	103	1
TDS SCORED	73	41
FG-ATTEMPTS	15-21	20-25
ATTENDANCE	685252	349093
Games/Avg Per Game	8/85656	4/87273
Neutral Site Games		2/84920

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Auburn	149	166	121	117	0	553
Opponent	69	120	78	79	0	346

5-YEAR RECORD 45-21



DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Nick Marshall (6-1, 210, Sr.)
	Jeremy Johnson (6-5, 223, So.)
FB	Gage Batten (6-0, 232, So.)
	Ricky Parks (6-3, 268, So.)
RB	Cameron Artis-Payne (5-11, 210, Sr.)
	Corey Grant (5-11, 203, Sr.)
LT	Avery Young (6-6, 309, So.)
	Robert Leff (6-6, 286, So.)
LG	Alex Kozan (6-4, 300, So.)
	Jordan Diamond (6-6, 318, So.)
C	Reese Dismukes (6-3, 295, Sr.)
	Xavier Dampeer (6-2, 296, Jr.)
RG	Chad Slade (6-5, 315, Sr.)
	Devonte Danzey (6-4, 296, Jr.)
RT	Patrick Miller (6-7, 289, Jr.)
	Will Adams (6-7, 296, So.)
TE	C.J. Uzomah (6-4, 264, Sr.)
	Brandon Fulse (6-4, 272, Sr.)
WR	Sammie Coates (6-2, 201, Jr.)
	Quan Bray (5-10, 187, Sr.)
WR	D'haquille Williams (6-2, 216, Jr.)
	Ricardo Louis (6-2, 212, Jr.)

Defense

DE	LaDarius Owens (6-2, 259, Sr.)
	Gimel President (6-4, 259, So.)
DT	Gabe Wright (6-3, 284, Sr.)
	Ben Bradley (6-1, 303, Sr.)
DT	Montravius Adams (6-4, 306, So.)
	Jeffrey Whitaker (6-4, 322, Sr.)
DE	Carl Lawson (6-2, 261, So.)
	Elijah Daniel (6-2, 263, So.)
OLB	Kris Frost (6-2, 234, Jr.)
	Cameron Toney (6-1, 243, Fr.)
MLB	Cassanova McKinzy (6-3, 249, Jr.)
	Kenny Flowers (6-1, 230, Jr.)
CB	Jonathon Mincy (5-10, 200, Sr.)
	Jonathan Jones (5-10, 182, Jr.)
CB	Kamryn Melton (5-10, 182, So.)
	Trovon Reed (6-0, 188, Sr.)
S	Jermaine Whitehead (5-11, 193, Sr.)
	Joshua Holsey (5-11, 192, Jr.)
S	Derrick Moncrief (6-2, 218, Jr.)
	Markell Boston (6-0, 190, Fr.)
ROV	Robenson Therezie (5-9, 212, Sr.)
	Justin Garrett (6-1, 224, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Daniel Carlson (6-4, 215, Fr.)
P	Jimmy Hutchinson (6-2, 198, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

LSU TIGERS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC WEST
3

Terrence Magee

MAGEE: JONATHAN BACHMAN / AP

The LSU Tigers enter 2014 knowing they are probably about a year away.

Talent? Sure, there's always talent in Baton Rouge. That's like saying there's a couple of good places to eat in New Orleans.

But the Tigers' talent is inexperienced at some critical spots on offense, a deficiency that won't be resolved by anything but time.

Graduation and another slew of early departures to the NFL removed a lot of the wise, old heads from LSU's offense. The Tigers return just 36 percent of their rushing yards from 2013, 14 percent of their receiving yards and six percent of their passing yards.

The loss of former senior quarterback Zach Mettenberger is the biggest obstacle to overcome. Mettenberger threw for 3,082 yards and 22 touchdowns before going down with a season-ending knee injury against Arkansas.

In stepped true freshman Anthony Jennings, who led a winning drive in a wild 31-27 win over the Razorbacks capped by a 49-yard touchdown pass to Travin Dural.

That looked like a sign of things to come. But Jennings struggled in the rain and mud of LSU's 21-14 Outback Bowl victory over Iowa, completing just 7 of 19 passes for 82 yards. Early enrollee Brandon Harris, like Jennings a dual-threat quarterback, arrived for spring practice and has a chance to take the season's first snap.

Also gone is the 1,100-yard receiving duo of Jarvis Landry and Odell Beckham Jr., meaning chemistry in the passing game will have to start virtually from scratch. The only veteran pair of hands in the receiving corps belongs to Dural, who had seven catches for 145 yards and a pair of scores last season. Dural will lead a group of skilled but unproven receivers that includes John Diarse, Quantavius Leslie, Avery Peterson (who will wear big brother Patrick Peterson's No. 2 jersey) and a raft of highly regarded incoming freshmen.

There is good news in the running game even though All-SEC tailback Jeremy Hill also took his 1,401 yards and 16 rushing touchdowns to the NFL.

Backups Terrence Magee (626 yards, eight touchdowns) and Kenny Hilliard (310 yards, seven TDs) have both had their standout moments, Magee with three 100-yard games last season. But both could wind up as understudies to freshman Leonard Fournette from New Orleans, being touted by some recruiting services as the nation's No. 1 prospect for 2014.

The offensive line is perhaps LSU's most veteran group, with only one position battle to settle at right guard between seniors Evan Washington and Hoko Fanaika. Left tackle La'El Collins passed on the NFL to return for a potential All-American senior season.

The defense slipped a bit from 2012 to

Difference-maker

Terrence Magee, RB

Magee is a versatile athlete who will impact games as a running back and receiver in 2014. As a runner, Magee can make a major impact with more touches. He had just 86 carries last year, but gained 626 yards and eight touchdowns, yielding him an average of 7.3 yards per carry and a touchdown percentage of 10.75.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Wisconsin*	
S.6	Sam Houston State	
S.13	Louisiana-Monroe	
S.20	Mississippi State	59-26
S.27	New Mexico State	
O.4	@ AUBURN	35-21
O.11	@ FLORIDA	17-6
O.18	Kentucky	
O.25	Ole Miss	24-27
N.8	Alabama	17-38
N.15	@ ARKANSAS	31-27
N.27	@ TEXAS A&M	34-10

* At Houston, TX

COACH

Les Miles
10th year (95-24)
Career record: 123-45

Offensive coordinator: Cam Cameron (second year)
Defensive coordinator: John Chavis (sixth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 10-3
(Beat Iowa in the Outback Bowl, 21-14)
Stadium: Tiger Stadium (92,542)
Tickets: 800-960-8587
Site: Baton Rouge, La.
Website: lsusports.net
Twitter: @LSUfball

2013, going from 307.6 yards and 17.5 points per game allowed to 340.7 and 22.0. But there was improvement as the season went on, the highlight a 34-10 throttling of Johnny Manziel and Texas A&M.

The Tigers will have a three-fourths rebuilt defensive line that returns only one starter: senior end Jermauria Rasco. He sat out the spring with shoulder surgery. Junior Danielle Hunter should start opposite Rasco. Senior Jordan Allen battled to start at the other end but he was considering a transfer at press time. Junior Quentin Thomas and sophomore Christian LaCouture hold down the defensive tackle spots.

Senior middle linebacker D.J. Welter is the Tigers' top returning tackler with 80 stops. He's backed up by sophomore Kendell Beckwith, who moves from defensive end. Kwon Alexander crossed the field from strong to weakside linebacker, while Lamar Louis moves from middle to strongside to replace last year's departed leading tackler, Lamin Barrow.

In the secondary, Jalen Mills shifted to free safety after being a two-year starter at cornerback, leaving those spots to sophomores Tre'Davious White and Rashard Robinson. Senior Ronald Martin will try to hold off Corey Thompson at strong safety.

Colby Delahoussaye returns after an exceptionally steady campaign for a freshman kicker (13 of 14 field goals, 56 of 57 PATs made). Jamie Keehn was wildly erratic at punter, booming 10 punts of 50 yards while unleashing a similar number of shanks.

BOTTOM LINE

The veteran offensive line should be able to create holes for a potent running game. The defense should continue its improvement upswing from the second half of last season. But there are too many question marks at key offensive skill positions for it not to haunt the Tigers. The SEC is a mighty unforgiving place for young quarterbacks, and on-the-job training is usually the recipe for a loss or two. Repeating last year's 9-3 regular-season record should be considered a success, with an eye toward being a legitimate SEC and CFP contender in 2015.

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

The Tigers finished with the No. 2 class nationally for the '14 cycle, led by Fournette, the New Orleans St. Augustine star who was considered the best prep running back in nearly a decade and was the 247Sports Composite National Player of the Year as a result of being the No. 1 overall prospect when all of the major recruiting rankings are averaged out. Dupre has a world of upside and he and national receiving-yardage record-holder Trey Quinn make up for losing No. 1 receiver Speedy Noil to Texas A&M. LSU landed two elite prospects out of Florida—defensive tackle Travonte Valentine and defensive back John Battle—and the top two safety prospects in Texas in Edward Parris and Jamal Adams. Quarterback Brandon Harris has the tools to be a star down the road.

TOP SIGNEES

1. Leonard Fournette, RB ★★★★★
2. Malachi Dupre, WR ★★★★★
3. Clifton Garrett, LB ★★★★★

WELTER: GERALD HERBERT / AP

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Anthony Jennings	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	9	101.7	13-29-1	44.8	181	1	20.1

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Terrence Magee	13	86	626	7.3	8	48.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Travin Dural	12	7	145	20.7	2	12.1
Connor Neighbors	13	7	92	13.1	0	7.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
D.J. Welter	13	25	55	80

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Jermauria Rasco	13	4.0	25

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Jalen Mills	3	-6	-2.0	0

D.J. Welter

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	LSU	OPP
SCORING	465	286
Points Per Game	35.8	22.0
FIRST DOWNS	287	246
Rushing	121	103
Passing	146	124
Penalty	20	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	2630	1862
Yards gained rushing	2945	2179
Yards lost rushing	315	317
Rushing Attempts	523	474
Average Per Rush	5.0	3.9
Average Per Game	202.3	143.2
TDs Rushing	37	15
PASSING YARDAGE	3263	2567
Comp-Att-Int	205-326-9	223-398-11
Average Per Pass	10.0	6.4
Average Per Catch	15.9	11.5
Average Per Game	251.0	197.5
TDs Passing	23	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	5893	4429
Total Plays	849	872
Average Per Play	6.9	5.1
Average Per Game	453.3	340.7
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	36-917	40-926
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	23-172	15-47
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	11-76	9-173
KICK RETURN AVG.	25.5	23.1
PUNT RETURN AVG.	7.5	3.1
INT RETURN AVG.	6.9	19.2
FUMBLES-LOST	15-10	22-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	90-732	69-530
Average Per Game	56.3	40.8
PUNTS-YARDS	43-1765	61-2561
Average Per Punt	41.0	42.0
Net punt average	38.1	37.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:00	30:00
3RD-DOWN CONV.	92/161	72/188
3rd-Down Pct.	57%	38%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	3/9	9/21
4th-Down Pct.	33%	43%
SACKS BY-YARDS	27-180	25-196
MISC YARDS	100	0
TDS SCORED	61	32
FG-ATTEMPTS	13-14	21-26
ATTENDANCE	639927	312840
Games/Avg Per Game	7/91418	4/78210
Neutral Site Games		2/65763

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
LSU	131	114	103	117	0	465
Opponent	52	105	75	54	0	286

5-YEAR RECORD 53-13

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Anthony Jennings (6-2, 211, So.)
	Brandon Harris (6-2, 184, Fr.)
FB	Connor Neighbors (5-11, 239, Sr.)
	Melvin Jones (6-3, 245, So.)
RB	Terrence Magee (5-9, 214, Sr.)
	Leonard Fournette (6-1, 224, Fr.)
LT	La'El Collins (6-5, 315, Sr.)
	Ethan Pocic (6-7, 301, So.)
LG	Vadal Alexander (6-6, 342, Jr.)
	Jonah Austin (6-6, 324, Jr.)
C	Elliott Porter (6-4, 300, Sr.)
	Andy Dodd (6-4, 322, Fr.)
RG	Evan Washington (6-6, 334, Sr.)
	Hoko Fanaika (6-6, 348, Sr.)
RT	Jerald Hawkins (6-6, 301, So.)
	Josh Boutte (6-4, 333, So.)
TE	Dillon Gordon (6-5, 286, Jr.)
	Logan Stokes (6-5, 251, Sr.)
WR	Travin Dural (6-2, 182, So.)
	Quantavius Leslie (6-4, 175, Sr.)
WR	John Diarse (6-1, 207, Fr.)
	Avery Peterson (6-2, 189, Fr.)

Defense

DE	Jermauria Rasco (6-3, 262, Sr.)
	Tashawn Bower (6-5, 243, So.)
DT	Quentin Thomas (6-3, 290, Jr.)
	Maquedius Bain (6-4, 308, Fr.)
DT	Christian LaCouture (6-5, 298, So.)
	Greg Gilmore (6-4, 311, Fr.)
DE	Danielle Hunter (6-6, 241, Jr.)
	Jordan Allen (6-6, 254, Sr.)
OLB	Kwon Alexander (6-2, 218, Jr.)
	Duke Riley (6-1, 208, So.)
MLB	D.J. Welter (6-1, 235, Sr.)
	Kendell Beckwith (6-3, 246, So.)
OLB	Lamar Louis (6-0, 216, Jr.)
	Deion Jones (6-2, 208, Jr.)
CB	Tre'Davious White (5-11, 177, So.)
	Dwayne Thomas (6-0, 181, So.)
CB	Rashard Robinson (6-1, 163, So.)
	Jalen Collins (6-2, 195, Jr.)
FS	Jalen Mills (6-1, 189, Jr.)
	Rickey Jefferson (5-11, 199, So.)
SS	Ronald Martin (6-1, 218, Sr.)
	Corey Thompson (6-2, 212, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Colby Delahoussaye (5-10, 169, So.)
P	Jamie Keehn (6-4, 218, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

TEXAS A&M AGGIES

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC WEST
4

Howard Matthews

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	@ SOUTH CAROLINA	
S.6	Lamar	
S.13	Rice	52-31
S.20	@ SMU	42-13
S.27	Arkansas*	45-33
O.4	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE	51-41
O.11	Ole Miss	41-38
O.18	@ ALABAMA	42-49
N.1	Louisiana-Monroe	
N.8	@ AUBURN	41-45
N.15	Missouri	21-28
N.27	LSU	10-34

* At Arlington, TX

COACH
Kevin Sumlin
Third year (20-6)
Career record: 55-23

Offensive coordinator: Jake Spavital (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Mark Snyder (third year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 9-4
(Beat Duke in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, 52-48)
Stadium: Kyle Field (82,600)
Tickets: 888-TAM-12TH
Site: College Station, Texas
Website: aggieathletics.com
Twitter: @AggieFootball

Two years ago there was no way of knowing how Johnny Manziel would take Texas A&M and college football by storm.

Two years later, there's no telling how many games the Aggies can win without him.

The Legend of Johnny Football covered up a multitude of defensive sins that will have to be addressed if A&M is to remain relevant in the mercilessly tough SEC West.

Continuing the high level of quarterback play is the first step. Matt Joeckel, who filled in for Manziel several times last season, bowed out of the race to succeed Manziel in April and enrolled at TCU. That leaves the battle for the top job at Kyle Field between Kyle Allen, the consensus No. 1 prep quarterback prospect and a January enrollee, and sophomore Kenny Hill.

Perhaps. Hill was suspended indefinitely during spring practice and will spend the offseason working his way back into coach Kevin Sumlin's good graces.

With Manziel and Ben Malena gone, the rushing chores fall to Trey Williams (407 yards, 6 TDs), Tra Carson (329, 7) and Brandon Williams (269, 1). In the pass-catching department, wide receiver Mike Evans' early departure for the NFL leaves plenty of opportunities for the likes of Ricky Seals-Jones, Sabian Holmes and Malcome Kennedy.

The offense won't be under pressure to put up such Manzielian numbers if the Aggies' defense can lower one of its: A&M ranked 110th nationally last season, allowing 222.3 yards per game rushing.

Tackle Isaiah Golden could help in that effort, but first he had to re-enroll in school this summer. Golden's daughter died in September and he ran into other off-the-field issues that prompted him to drop out in the spring.

At placekicker, Josh Lambo won the job during the season last year after Taylor Bertolet missed three early extra points. Lambo remains in front, though the competition could be renewed. Meanwhile, Ray Guy Award finalist Drew Kaser is back to handle the punting chores after averaging 47.4 yards per boot last year.

BOTTOM LINE
The Aggies have grown too talented under Sumlin to fall apart in the post-Johnny Football Era, but there could be a fall-off with a freshman quarterback at the helm.

Difference-maker
Howard Matthews, DB

At 6-2 and 200 pounds, Matthews is a big safety with a big game who makes big hits. Last year he was second on the team with 90 tackles. He also patrolled the defensive backfield with ferocity, contributing three interceptions and six pass breakups. As a senior he will be asked to lead a defense that must show vast improvement, as Heisman winner Johnny Manziel isn't around to bail them out anymore.

5-YEAR RECORD 42-23

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Kyle Allen (6-3, 205, Fr.)
RB Trey Williams (5-8, 195, Fr.)
LT Cedric Ogbuehi (6-5, 300, Sr.)
LG Jarvis Harrison (6-4, 325, Sr.)
C Mike Matthews (6-3, 285, Jr.)
RG Joseph Cheek (6-7, 304, Jr.)
RT Germain Ifedi (6-5, 320, So.)
TE Cameron Clear (6-6, 274, Sr.)
WR Ricky Seals-Jones (6-5, 225, Fr.)
WR Sabian Holmes (5-11, 175, Jr.)
WR Malcome Kennedy (6-0, 205, Sr.)

Defense
DE Daeshon Hall (6-6, 245, So.)
DT Isaiah Golden (6-2, 300, So.)
DT Alonzo Williams (6-4, 290, Jr.)
DE Gavin Stansbury (6-4, 257, Sr.)
OLB A.J. Hilliard (6-2, 210, So.)
MLB Jordan Mastrogiovanni (6-3, 235, So.)
OLB Darian Claiborne (6-0, 225, So.)
CB Deshazor Everett (6-0, 188, Sr.)
CB De'Vante Harris (5-11, 175, Jr.)
FS Floyd Raven (6-2, 200, Sr.)
SS Howard Matthews (6-2, 215, Sr.)

Specialists
K Josh Lambo (6-0, 220, Jr.)
P Drew Kaser (6-3, 205, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

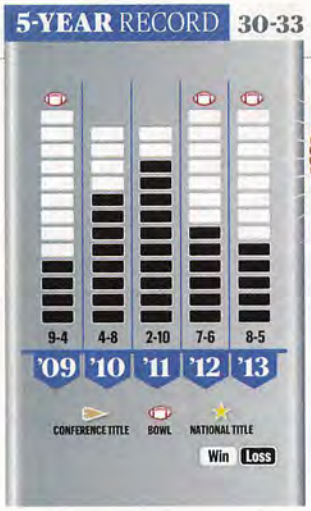
RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES
1 Myles Garrett, DE ★★★★★
2 Speedy Noil, WR ★★★★★
3 Kyle Allen, QB ★★★★★

The Aggies finished fifth overall, but signed the nation's top quarterback (Allen), receiver (Noil) and defensive end (Garrett) and went outside Texas—to Arizona for Allen and Louisiana for Noil—to get two of those, showing this program has expanded its recruiting reach quickly. Garrett was the top overall prospect in Texas and could be the best overall in the class before all is said and done. On top of that, Texas A&M went out and signed two of the best junior-college offensive tackles in the 2014 class in Jermaine Eluemunor and Avery Gennesey and both are already enrolled (along with Allen and Noil).

MATTHEWS: JOHN BAZEMORE / AP

OLE MISS REBELS



Robert Nkemdiche

5 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC WEST

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Bo Wallace (6-4, 203, Sr.)
RB	Jaylen Walton (5-8, 166, Jr.)
LT	Laremy Tunsil (6-5, 315, So.)
LG	Aaron Morris (6-5, 355, Sr.)
C	Justin Bell (6-2, 353, Jr.)
RG	Daronte Bouldin (6-5, 333, Fr.)
RT	Fahn Cooper (6-5, 315, Jr.)
TE	Evan Engram (6-3, 217, So.)
WR	Laquon Treadwell (6-2, 224, So.)
WR	Quincy Adeboyejo (6-3, 189, So.)
WR	Vince Sanders (6-1, 182, Sr.)

Defense

DE	C.J. Johnson (6-2, 237, Sr.)
DT	Robert Nkemdiche (6-4, 277, So.)
NT	Woodrow Hamilton (6-3, 310, Jr.)
DE	Fadol Brown (6-4, 275, So.)
OLB	Serderius Bryant (5-9, 218, Sr.)
MLB	D.T. Shackleford (6-1, 252, Sr.)
CB	Senquez Golson (5-9, 180, Sr.)
CB	Derrick Jones (6-2, 188, So.)
FS	Trae Elston (6-0, 190, Jr.)
SS	Cody Prewitt (6-2, 212, Sr.)
S	Tony Conner (6-0, 217, So.)

Specialists

K	Andy Pappanastos (5-11, 184, Fr.)
P	Will Gleeson (6-3, 189, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Roderick Taylor,** OG ★★★★
2. **C.J. Hampton,** S ★★★★
3. **Markell Pack,** WR ★★★★

Though it wasn't a national storyline like in 2013, this was another outstanding class for the Rebels under Hugh Freeze, ranking No. 15 nationally. Ole Miss landed the top four overall prospects in the Magnolia State, including Taylor, Hampton, Pack and defensive tackle Breeland Speaks. Hampton has already enrolled and is one of six prospects to do so, including junior-college offensive tackle Fahn Cooper and intriguing jumbo juco quarterback Jeremy Liggins. Former Notre Dame cornerback signee Tee Shepard is part of this class and receiver/tight end Sammie Epps is a major sleeper.

Optimism has bloomed around the Ole Miss program like a speculative stock during Hugh Freeze's first two seasons as coach.

Now it's time to pay dividends.

The Rebels return 16 starters from a team that surpassed 2012's 7-6 record with an 8-5 mark after a win over Georgia Tech in the Music City Bowl. Now there's hope in Oxford that this will be the team that finally breaks through for the program's first SEC championship in 51 years.

Expectations are huge for senior quarterback Bo Wallace, the SEC's most experienced signal-caller. Wallace has been brilliant at times, already ranking second in school history in total yards (7,085) and passing yards (6,340) despite never being completely healthy in either season as a Rebel.

Wallace's top receiving target remains sophomore Laquon Treadwell. He had a team-high 72 catches for 608 yards and five touchdowns last season and now moves from the slot to a wideout spot. Quincy Adeboyejo and Vince Sanders are fighting off competition at the other two receiving positions.

The running back position is deep thanks to Jaylen Walton (523 rushing yards, 6 TDs in 2013) and I'Tavius Mathers (563, 3). Tight end Evan Engram earned second-team All-SEC honors despite missing the last five games with an ankle injury that required surgery.

Defensively, the Rebels should shine with nine returning starters. The secondary could be the SEC's best with All-American and Thorpe Award finalist Cody Prewitt at safety and Freshman All-American Tony Conner at the Husky (safety) spot, while second-team All-SEC pick Serderius Bryant is back at linebacker after leading the Rebels with 78 tackles in 2013.

Freshman All-American Robert Nkemdiche garnered big headlines last season when he arrived in Oxford as the nation's No. 1 defensive tackle prospect, but getting a fifth year for end C.J. Johnson may be an even bigger plus.

The Rebels are inexperienced in the kicking game with a pair of redshirt freshmen expected to take over the duties.

Difference-maker

Robert Nkemdiche, DT

Everything about Nkemdiche was big in 2013—his size (6-4, 277 pounds), the hype (No. 1 consensus prep prospect in the nation) and, of course, his performance. In 10 starts he recorded 34 tackles, eight tackles for loss and two sacks, often facing double teams. Already a freak athlete, a year's experience in the SEC only makes him scarier entering his sophomore campaign.

BOTTOM LINE

There's no reason Ole Miss can't contend for an upper-echelon SEC bowl and be the team every CFP contender cringes at the thought of playing.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Boise State*	
S.6	@ VANDERBILT	39-35
S.13	Louisiana	
S.27	Memphis	
O.4	Alabama	0-25
O.11	@ TEXAS A&M	38-41
O.18	Tennessee	
O.25	@ LSU	27-24
N.1	Auburn	22-30
N.8	Presbyterian	
N.22	@ ARKANSAS	34-24
N.29	Mississippi State	10-17

* At Atlanta

COACH

Hugh Freeze
Third year (15-11)
Career record: 45-18

Offensive coordinators:
Matt Luke (third year)
Dan Werner (third year)
Defensive coordinators:
Dave Wommack (third year)
Jason Jones (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Beat Georgia Tech in the Music City Bowl, 25-17)
Stadium: Vaught-Hemingway Stadium (60,580)
Tickets: 888-732-8587
Site: Oxford, Miss.
Website: olemisssports.com
Twitter: @OleMissFB

NKEMDICHE: CHARLES MITCHELL / ICON SMI

MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH

SEC WEST

6

Dak Prescott

This fall feels like a season of renewal at Mississippi State.

First there is the completion of an $80 million project to enclose the north end zone at Davis Wade Stadium, adding 6,000 more seats (bumping capacity up to 61,337), suites and a massive new scoreboard to a facility that turns 100 years old this season.

Then there is the team that will play in that now horseshoe-shaped venue. With a little luck and 18 returning starters, optimism is high in Starkville that the Bulldogs can vie for a major bowl and possibly even their first SEC West title since 1998.

That optimism starts with junior quarterback Dak Prescott, one of the SEC's top run-pass threats. He overcame the death of his mother and a career-threatening shoulder injury to throw for 1,940 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2013 while rushing for a team-high 829 yards and 13 more scores.

When not running the ball, Prescott will be handing it off to senior tailback Nick Griffin—who has overcome injuries to both knees last year—and Josh Robinson. When throwing it, Prescott will have a host of targets to choose from, including senior receivers Jameon Lewis (923 yards, 5 TDs, including a 220-yard effort against Rice) and Robert Johnson (34 catches, 389 yards) and tight end Malcolm Johnson (30 catches, 391 yards, 2 TDs).

Defensively, there is depth up front with experienced returning seniors Preston Smith, P.J. Jones and Kaleb Eulls, but sophomore Chris Jones looks like a star-in-the-making. As a freshman, he had 32 tackles, including seven for loss (3 sacks) and 10 quarterback hurries.

All-SEC candidate Benardrick McKinney, who led State with 71 tackles a season ago, paces the linebacker corps. The secondary returns three starters, led by cornerback Taveze Calhoun (45 tackles, 3 interceptions).

The kicking game is a major red flag. Devon Bell made just six of 14 field goals in 2013 and, after spring practice, it looked like he would be supplanted by Evan Sobiesk (3-for-6 on field goals in '13), with Bell moving to punter (41.2-yard average on 24 attempts) to replace the departed Baker Swedenberg.

BOTTOM LINE

Having an experienced quarterback like Prescott to build around is gold this year in the SEC, putting nine wins well within reach. The first three games (Southern Miss, UAB, South Alabama) should have State 3-0 going into a pivotal stretch.

Difference-maker

Dak Prescott, QB

There are those who envision that Prescott will be the quarterback to watch in the SEC. They're looking at film, not a crystal ball. Prescott dazzled as a sophomore last year, recording 1,940 passing yards and 829 rushing yards plus 23 total touchdowns. Those numbers could be a precursor to an all-conference season in 2014.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Southern Miss	
S.6	UAB	
S.13	@ SOUTH ALABAMA	
S.20	@ LSU	26-59
O.4	Texas A&M	41-51
O.11	Auburn	20-24
O.25	@ KENTUCKY	28-22
N.1	Arkansas	24-17
N.8	Tennessee-Martin	
N.15	@ ALABAMA	7-20
N.22	Vanderbilt	
N.29	@ OLE MISS	17-10

COACH

Dan Mullen
Sixth year (36-28)
Career record: 36-28

Offensive coordinators: Billy Gonzales (first year) and John Hevesy (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Geoff Collins (fourth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 7-6
(Beat Rice in the Liberty Bowl, 44-7)
Stadium: Davis Wade Stadium (61,337)
Tickets: 888-GO-DAWGS
Site: Starkville, Miss.
Website: hailstate.com
Twitter: @HailStateFB

5-YEAR RECORD 36-28

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Dak Prescott (6-2, 235, Jr.)
RB	Nick Griffin (6-0, 226, Sr.)
LT	Blaine Clausell (6-7, 315, Sr.)
LG	Jamaal Clayborn (6-4, 315, So.)
C	Dillon Day (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RG	Ben Beckwith (6-3, 305, Sr.)
RT	Damien Robinson (6-8, 320, Sr.)
TE	Malcolm Johnson (6-2, 231, Sr.)
WR	Joe Morrow (6-4, 210, Jr.)
WR	Robert Johnson (6-1, 211, Sr.)
WR	Jameon Lewis (5-9, 183, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Preston Smith (6-6, 267, Sr.)
DT	Kaleb Eulls (6-4, 295, Sr.)
DT	Chris Jones (6-5, 300, So.)
DE	A.J. Jefferson (6-3, 265, So.)
OLB	Richie Brown (6-2, 235, So.)
MLB	Benardrick McKinney (6-5, 245, Jr.)
OLB	Matthew Wells (6-2, 215, Sr.)
CB	Jamerson Love (5-10, 175, Sr.)
CB	Taveze Calhoun (6-1, 184, Jr.)
FS	Deontay Evans (5-10, 205, So.)
SS	Kendrick Market (5-10, 188, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Evan Sobiesk (5-8, 188, So.)
P	Devon Bell (6-2, 185, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1. **Jamoral Graham,** ATH ★★★★
2. **Aeris Williams,** RB ★★★★
3. **Geri Green,** ATH/DE ★★★★

Highlighted by 15 in-state (high school and juco) prospects, it was another solid class (No. 38 nationally) for coach Dan Mullen. Graham is a study in versatility and can have high upside on offense or defense. The 6-1, 209-pound Williams, from nearby West Point, Miss., is a powerful back with good feet who should be able to continue the tradition of punishing physical runners in Starkville. Junior-college offensive tackle Jocquell Johnson from Copiah-Lincoln (Miss.) CC has already enrolled and could contribute soon. Quarterback Elijah Staley was a two-sport star in high school and has big upside.

PRESCOTT: RAINER EHRHARDT / AP

ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

5-YEAR RECORD 36-27

Alex Collins

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Brandon Allen (6-3, 216, Jr.)
FB	Kody Walker (6-2, 246, Jr.)
RB	Alex Collins (5-11, 206, So.)
LT	Dan Skipper (6-10, 315, So.)
LG	Denver Kirkland (6-5, 348, So.)
C	Luke Charpentier (6-4, 320, Sr.)
RG	Grady Ollison (6-5, 309, Jr.)
RT	Brey Cook (6-7, 328, Sr.)
TE	Hunter Henry (6-6, 251, So.)
WR	Demetrius Wilson (6-3, 186, Sr.)
WR	Keon Hatcher (6-2, 210, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Trey Flowers (6-4, 267, Sr.)
DT	DeMarcus Hodge (6-1, 343, Jr.)
DT	Darius Philon (6-3, 283, So.)
DE	Brandon Lewis (6-5, 256, So.)
OLB	Braylon Mitchell (6-3, 231, Sr.)
MLB	Brooks Ellis (6-2, 237, So.)
OLB	Martrell Spaight (6-0, 228, Sr.)
CB	Tevin Mitchel (6-0, 188, Sr.)
CB	Will Hines (6-1, 191, Jr.)
FS	Alan Turner (6-0, 201, Sr.)
SS	Rohan Gaines (5-11, 186, Jr.)

Specialists

K	Cole Hedlund (5-10, 170, Fr.)
P	Sam Irwin-Hill (6-3, 201, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

247 STAR RATING

1. Bijhon Jackson, DT ★★★★
2. Brian Wallace, OT ★★★★
3. JoJo Robinson, ATH ★★★★

Thanks to the efforts of offensive line coach Sam Pittman, who cast a wide net, Arkansas landed one of the best classes of "big uglies" in the country led by Wallace (St. Louis, Mo.), Frank Ragnow (Chanhassen, Minn.) and Jovan Pruitt (Dallas, Texas). This trio joins Dan Skipper (Colorado) and Denver Kirkland (Florida) from the 2013 class to give the Razorbacks one of the most eclectic (from a geography standpoint) and talented groups of line prospects in college football. Quarterback Rafe Peavy (Boliver, Mo.) is the son of a coach who has already enrolled and could make some noise there this year.

COLLINS: BETH HALL / AP

You have to think Bret Bielema wonders sometimes if he made a fatal career move leaving perennial Big Ten contender Wisconsin for Arkansas.

His first Razorbacks team started a promising 3-0 last season before dropping its last nine games. Arkansas went 0-8 in SEC play, its first winless conference record since 1942.

There were some reasons for optimism to ring out 2013—a 24-17 overtime loss to Mississippi State and a 31-27 loss at LSU that took a 99-yard drive for the Tigers to prevail.

And there is good news for Arkansas where Bielema wants to be best: running the ball. The Razorbacks return the SEC's best tandem of running backs in Jonathan Williams (900 yards, 4 touchdowns) and Alex Collins (1,026, 4), both of whom ranked among the top 10 SEC rushing leaders. Add to that mix Korliss Marshall, who spent most of his time at safety last season but is converting full time to tailback.

They will run behind a massive offensive line anchored at left tackle by 6-10 Dan Skipper (he blocked a school-record three field goals last season) and 6-7 Brey Cook at right tackle.

The passing game still poses a concern. Brandon Allen returns after struggling to complete 49.6 percent of his throws in 2013 for 1,552 yards with 13 TDs and 10 interceptions. Wide receiver Demetrius Wilson sat out last season with a torn ACL but will be counted on to give the Hogs a big-play threat.

Arkansas has the building blocks up front with defensive end Trey Flowers and tackle Darius Philon, but elsewhere the Razorbacks' defense is a bit in flux. Watch to see if talented Otha Peters pushes Martrell Spaight for playing time at one of the outside linebacker spots, while redshirt freshman De'Andre Coley should challenge Rohan Gaines for supremacy at strong safety.

Incoming freshman Cole Hedlund is expected to claim the placekicking job. Sam Irwin-Hill, one of the growing colony of Australian punters in the SEC, returns after averaging 44.3 yards per kick last season.

Difference-maker

Alex Collins, RB

In earning 2013 SEC Freshman of the Year, Collins became the first SEC true freshman to begin the season with three 100-yard rushing games. For a 5-11, 206-pound frame, he's very light on his feet, reminding Razorbacks coach Bret Bielema of the New Orleans Saints' Darren Sproles. Translation: He's a hassle, even for SEC defenses.

BOTTOM LINE

Arkansas athletic director Jeff Long, the chairman of the College Football Playoff selection committee, won't have to leave the room because of his Razorbacks. The Hogs should improve but it may be hard to tell after games with Auburn, Texas Tech, Alabama, LSU, Georgia, Texas A&M and Missouri. Getting back to their first bowl since 2011 would be a shock.

7
PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SEC WEST

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ AUBURN	17-35
S.6	Nicholls State	
S.13	@ TEXAS TECH	
S.20	Northern Illinois	
S.27	Texas A&M*	33-45
O.11	Alabama	0-52
O.18	Georgia**	
O.25	UAB	
N.1	@ MISSISSIPPI STATE	17-24
N.15	LSU	27-31
N.22	Ole Miss	24-34
N.29	@ MISSOURI	

* At Arlington, TX
** At Little Rock, AR

COACH

Bret Bielema
Second year (3-9)
Career record: 71-33

Offensive coordinator: Jim Chaney (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Robb Smith (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 3-9
Stadium: Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium (72,000)
Tickets: 800-982-HOGS
Site: Fayetteville, Ark.
Website: arkansasrazorbacks.com
Twitter: @RazorbackFB

SUN BELT CONFERENCE

PROJECTED FINISH

1. **LOUISIANA** — Bowl Projection: New Orleans Bowl
2. **ARKANSAS STATE** — Bowl Projection: GoDaddy Bowl
3. **LOUISIANA-MONROE** — Bowl Projection: Camellia Bowl
4. **SOUTH ALABAMA**
5. **TROY**
6. **TEXAS STATE**
7. **APPALACHIAN STATE***
8. **GEORGIA SOUTHERN***
9. **NEW MEXICO STATE**
10. **IDAHO**
11. **GEORGIA STATE**

*Not bowl-eligible in 2014 due to transition from FCS

Wes Saxton

Terrance Broadway and Elijah McGuire

Expanded, new-look Belt looks forward to third bowl tie-in and possibility of loaded Louisiana making national waves

BY TIM BUCKLEY | *The Advertiser (Lafayette, La.)*

The good news for the Sun Belt Conference in 2013 was that all but one of its teams, winless Georgia State, was bowl-eligible. Member programs registered a league-record 21 non-conference wins last season, including a combined 8-1 mark against teams from rivals Conference USA, the Mid-American and the Mountain West.

The bad news: With four schools bowl-eligible but winning just six games, only two SBC teams—conference co-champs Louisiana and Arkansas State—actually played in the postseason. The Ragin' Cajuns won the New Orleans Bowl for a third straight year, while the Red Wolves were victorious in the GoDaddy Bowl in Mobile, Ala., for a second straight time.

Don't look for that to happen again to a new-look Sun Belt in 2014, on either front, especially with the creation of a third primary postseason tie-in, the Camellia Bowl in Montgomery, Ala.

Gone from what was an eight-member league last year is Western Kentucky, off to Conference USA to join ex-Sun Belt members North Texas, Middle Tennessee, Florida Atlantic and Florida International.

In are four newcomers. Sort of.

Ex-WAC members Idaho and New Mexico State, both of which were independents last season, are actually rejoining the Sun Belt after nine years away. Neither has won more than two games either of the last two seasons, and Idaho hasn't won more than two since 2010.

In light of the C-USA defections, though, some in the Sun Belt are especially stoked about the addition of two traditional FCS powers. Appalachian State won three straight national titles from 2005-07, while Georgia Southern posted six between 1985 and 2000.

Still, there seems to be an old-guard/new-guard separation with Louisiana, Arkansas State, Louisiana-Monroe and Troy at the top—perhaps joined this year by rising South Alabama—and the pack of newbies and recent additions below.

"I sort of think it's gonna be a little heavy on the top end this year," Ragin' Cajuns coach Mark Hudspeth says, "and I think it's gonna be a lot of parity among the rest of them."

Neither Georgia Southern nor Appalachian State is bowl-eligible until 2015 while transitioning to FBS play.

TRENDING

Three stories to watch

1 On-the-job training: With Louisiana-Monroe's Kolton Browning, Troy's Corey Robinson, South Alabama's Ross Metheny and Arkansas State's Adam Kennedy all done, new SBC quarterbacks will be feeling their way early.

RECRUITING RANKINGS

by JC Shurburtt, 247Sports

247 COMPOSITE

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL PLAYERS	★★★★★ 5-STAR RECRUITS	★★★★ 4-STAR RECRUITS	★★★ 3-STAR RECRUITS	POINTS
1	Georgia Southern	21	0	0	10	120.95
2	Appalachian State	27	0	0	8	116.55
3	Arkansas State	24	0	0	8	114.25
4	Texas State	26	0	0	3	110.06
5	Georgia State	26	0	0	8	106.78
6	Louisiana	21	0	0	3	102.11
7	South Alabama	22	0	0	4	94.85
8	Idaho	24	0	0	3	90.78
9	New Mexico State	27	0	0	1	87.81
10	Louisiana-Monroe	23	0	0	1	84.11
11	Troy	17	0	0	1	64.29

ALL-SUN BELT

Offense

QB **Terrance Broadway,** Sr., Louisiana
RB **Alonzo Harris,** Sr., Louisiana
RB **Elijah McGuire,** So., Louisiana
OL **Bryce Giddens,** Jr., Arkansas State
OL **Terrence Jones,** Sr., Troy
OL **Chris May,** Jr., South Alabama
OL **Daniel Quave,** Sr., Louisiana
OL **Valerian Ume-Ezeoke,** Sr., New Mexico State
TE **Wes Saxton,** Sr., South Alabama
WR **J.D. McKissic,** Jr., Arkansas State
WR **Jamal Robinson,** Sr., Louisiana

Defense

DL **Justin Hamilton,** Sr., Louisiana
DL **Gerrand Johnson,** Jr., Louisiana-Monroe
DL **Tyler Roberts,** Jr., Troy
LB **Qushaun Lee,** Sr., Arkansas State
LB **Joseph Peterson,** Jr., Georgia State
LB **Michael Orakpo,** Sr., Texas State
LB **Dominique Tovell,** Jr., Louisiana
DB **Qudarius Ford,** Sr., South Alabama
DB **Rocky Hayes,** Jr., Arkansas State
DB **Trevence Patt,** Sr., Louisiana
DB **Sterling Young,** Sr., Arkansas State

Specialists

K **Aleem Sunanon,** So., South Alabama
P **Austin Rehkow,** So., Idaho

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Back to being healthy in 2014, the dual-threat senior has an armament in what could wind up being coordinator Jay Johnson's most dangerous Ragin' Cajun offense yet.

Qushaun Lee

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Lee led the Sun Belt with 134 total tackles for a league-high average of 10.3 per game on a bowl-winning, conference co-champ team in 2013.

ASCENDING

SOUTH ALABAMA

The Jaguars closed last season with an upset win over Sun Belt co-champ Louisiana to become bowl-eligible in their second FBS season, and the USA defense should be solid again.

DESCENDING

TROY

After three straight bowl trips from 2008-10, the Trojans haven't made any appearances for three consecutive years—and a leaky defense has been a big reason.

2 Boot camp: The SBC has some amazing punters, led by Idaho's Austin Rehkow, who led the nation as a freshman with a 47.8-yard average last year. And ULM's Justin Manton and App State's Bentlee Critcher are right on his heels.

3 Postseason party: Five SBC teams were bowl-eligible but didn't play last postseason. With three primary tie-ins now, at least three league teams should go bowling this year.

RATING THE SUN BELT

FASTEST RECEIVER
Tacoi Sumler, WR, Appalachian State
The ex-Oregon Duck has been clocked at 4.24 in the 40.

BEST HANDS
Jamal Robinson, WR, Louisiana
He has an NFL body and, at 6-4, soars above SBC corners.

BEST PASSING QB
Kameron Bryant, Appalachian State
Bryant threw for 2,713 yards and 14 TDs last year, but his 71.2-percent completion rate is what really stood out.

BEST RUNNING QB
Terrance Broadway, Louisiana
Even with sporadic ankle problems, the dynamic dual threat has run for 1,211 yards and 17 TDs over the past two seasons.

MOST ELUSIVE RB
Elijah McGuire, Louisiana
The electric McGuire is the Cajuns' big-play guy.

BEST INSTINCTS
Terrance Broadway, QB, Louisiana
The savvy senior has a knack for knowing when to throw, when to tuck it and when to go down or out-of-bounds.

BEST ATHLETE
Elijah McGuire, RB, Louisiana
Bob Marlin, coach of Louisiana's NCAA Tournament-qualifying basketball team, has said breakaway runner McGuire is the Ragin' Cajuns football player he'd most like on his roster.

PLAYER MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED (OFF THE FIELD)
David Mayo, LB, Texas State
If he can overcome future obstacles like he has overcome knee issues, the heart-and-soul of the Bobcats' defense should be quite successful at future pursuits.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE
Bentlee Critcher, P, Appalachian State
Critcher averaged 45.9 yards as a walk-on true freshman.

TOP NFL PROSPECT
Wes Saxton, TE, South Alabama
At least one scouting service has Saxton rated as the nation's No. 8 NFL prospect at tight end for the '15 NFL Draft.

TOP IMPACT FROSH
Blaise Taylor, DB, Arkansas State
The son of ex-Auburn and current Arkansas State assistant coach Trooper Taylor was highly recruited after helping lead Auburn (Ala.) High to its first state title game in 2013.

HARDEST HITTER
Qushaun Lee, LB, Arkansas State
Lee was in on a Sun Belt-high 134 total tackles as a junior.

BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER
Sean Jeppesen, LB, Georgia State
The former walk-on began last year as GSU's starting fullback, but was forced to switch to linebacker for the season's final three games. He will start this season at Mike linebacker and was named team captain last year.

BEST INTERVIEW
Alonzo Harris, RB, Louisiana
The senior tells it like it is and doesn't hold back emotion.

BEST COACH AS STRATEGIST
Kenny Edenfield, offensive coordinator, Troy
Troy led the Belt in points and yards per game last season.

BEST COACH AS RECRUITER
Mark Hudspeth, Louisiana
The Cajuns' head coach can be very convincing.

HOTTEST SEAT
Larry Blakeney, Troy
With no winning record and zero bowls since 2010, the long-tenured Blakeney may start feeling some nudging.

BEST VENUE
Cajun Field, Louisiana
It's noisy inside and fun outside, thanks to party-hearty Acadiana tailgaters.

BROADLEAF/MCGUIRE: BILL HABER / AP; SAXTON: G.M. ANDREWS / AP; LEE: G ANDREWS / AP

LOUISIANA
RAGIN' CAJUNS

PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SUN BELT
1

Alonzo Harris

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Southern	
S.6	Louisiana Tech	
S.13	@ OLE MISS	
S.20	@ BOISE STATE	
O.4	Georgia State	35-21
O.14	@ TEXAS STATE	48-24
O.21	Arkansas State	23-7
N.1	South Alabama	8-30
N.8	@ NEW MEXICO STATE	49-35
N.15	@ LOUISIANA-MONROE	28-31
N.22	Appalachian State	
N.29	@ TROY	41-36

COACH
Mark Hudspeth
Fourth year (27-12)
Career record: 93-33

Offensive coordinator: Jay Johnson (fourth year)
Defensive coordinator: James Willis (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 9-4
(Beat Tulane in the New Orleans Bowl, 24-21)
Stadium: Cajun Field (31,000)
Tickets: 337-265-2100
Site: Lafayette, La.
Website: ragincajuns.com
Twitter: @ULRaginCajuns

With three straight 9-4 seasons and consecutive New Orleans Bowl wins over San Diego State, East Carolina and Tulane, Louisiana (formerly Louisiana-Lafayette) looks to pad the resume in 2014. After averaging 33.8 points per game last year, coach Mark Hudspeth's Ragin' Cajuns are loaded with all the offensive weaponry needed to have a big season.

Quarterback Terrance Broadway, who passed for 2,419 yards and 19 touchdowns last season, is throwing well again after playing in the bowl despite being three weeks removed from surgery to repair a fractured (throwing) forearm. That arm should stay busy with NFL prospect Jamal Robinson (54 catches, 862 yards, 8 TDs), James Butler, Devin Scott and highly touted junior-college transfer C.J. Bates as outside receiving options. Also, speedy Al Riles–who has been moved over from defense, where had a 99-yard pick-six at Western Kentucky last year–replaces slot receiver Darryl Surgent.

The Cajuns have two of the three first-team All-Sun Belt running backs from 2013 back on their roster. The workhorse, Alonzo Harris, is a bull, an SEC-quality runner with NFL talent who had 942 yards and 14 touchdowns last season. The flash is SBC Freshman of the Year Elijah McGuire, who compiled a career highlight reel–103 rushes for 863 yards and eight TDs, and a NCAA-leading average of 8.4 yards per carry–in his first college season.

Difference-maker
Alonzo Harris, RB

Harris and Elijah McGuire split the ball-carrying load and shared all-conference first-team consideration in 2013. The shared load will again benefit the smash-and-dash duo that gained 1,700 yards rushing as a tandem. The physical Harris, who had 942 yards on 199 carries, should break 1,000 yards this season.

Louisiana also returns starting offensive linemen Terry Johnson, Octravian Anderson and brothers Mykhael and Daniel Quave, but must replace three-year starting center Andre Huval, which puts pressure on Broadway in calling more protection schemes.

After flirting with a Florida State assistant's job, coordinator James Willis stayed put in Lafayette to oversee a multiple-look defense that loses linebacker Justin Anderson (100-plus tackles each of the last two seasons) but returns standout outside linebacker Dominique Tovell along with Justin Hamilton, Christian Ringo and Marquis White up front and all four secondary starters in Corey Trim, Trevence Patt, T.J. Worthy and Sean Thomas.

Field goal kicking must be shored up, but kicker Hunter Stover (12 tackles) is a coverage maniac.

BOTTOM LINE

After sharing the 2013 SBC title with Arkansas State, 10 wins, an outright championship and a season-ending Top 25 ranking is reachable–if the defense tightens.

5-YEAR RECORD 36-27

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Terrance Broadway (6-2, 221, Sr.)
RB	Alonzo Harris (6-1, 238, Sr.)
LT	Mykhael Quave (6-5, 306, Jr.)
LG	Terry Johnson (6-2, 295, Sr.)
C	Grant Horst (6-5, 260, Fr.)
RG	Daniel Quave (6-3, 321, Sr.)
RT	Octravian Anderson (6-4, 295, Jr.)
TE	Larry Pettis (6-4, 253, Sr.)
WR	James Butler (6-3, 217, Sr.)
WR	Al Riles (5-10, 212, Jr.)
WR	Jamal Robinson (6-4, 205, Sr.)

Defense

DE	Marquis White (6-5, 295, Jr.)
DT	Christian Ringo (6-1, 277, Sr.)
NT	Justin Hamilton (6-2, 310, Sr.)
SLB	Dominique Tovell (6-2, 237, Jr.)
MLB	Trey Granier (6-1, 231, So.)
WLB	Chris Hill (5-11, 195, Jr.)
ROV	Jake Molbert (6-1, 223, Sr.)
CB	Sean Thomas (5-10, 173, Sr.)
CB	Corey Trim (5-11, 182, Sr.)
FS	T.J. Worthy (6-2, 201, Jr.)
SS	Trevence Patt (6-0, 197, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Hunter Stover (6-1, 214, Sr.)
P	Daniel Cadona (6-4, 223, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

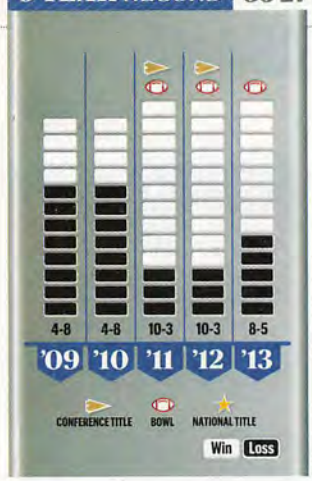
TOP SIGNEES
1 ▸ **Anthony Jones,** TE ★★★
2 ▸ **T.J. Posey,** LB ★★★
3 ▸ **Ken Edwards,** DE ★★★

Mark Hudspeth and staff did an excellent job assembling this class, which features multiple potential difference-makers. The 6-5, 238-pound Jones has NFL-type athleticism, but needs development and more time at tight end. Edwards, from Philadelphia (Miss.) Neshoba Central, is similar at 6-6 and 245 pounds. Quarterback Jordan Davis of Spring (Texas) Klein Oak can make some things happen and could be a long-term solution at the position for Hudspeth. The Ragin' Cajuns signed nine Louisiana prospects in a class that ranked No. 6 in the Sun Belt, according to 247Sports.

HARRIS: G.M. ANDREWS / AP

ARKANSAS STATE RED WOLVES

5-YEAR RECORD 36-27



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB Fredi Knighten (5-11, 189, Jr.)
RB Michael Gordon (5-9, 187, Jr.)
LT Jemar Clark (6-6, 304, Fr.)
LG Devin Mondie (6-5, 291, Fr.)
C Bryce Giddens (5-11, 300, Jr.)
RG Alan Wright (6-2, 307, Sr.)
RT Colton Jackson (6-4, 276, Fr.)
TE Darion Griswold (6-5, 264, Jr.)
WR Tres Houston (6-2, 188, Jr.)
WR J.D. McKissic (5-10, 185, Jr.)
WR Carl Lee (6-2, 202, So.)

Defense

DE Chris Odom (6-3, 234, So.)
DT Markel Owens (6-2, 303, Sr.)
DT Darrius Rosser (6-3, 284, Fr.)
DE Chris Stone (6-3, 255, Jr.)
OLB Kyle Coleman (6-1, 228, Sr.)
MLB Qushaun Lee (5-11, 225, Sr.)
OLB Frankie Jackson (5-10, 198, Sr.)
CB Artez Brown (6-0, 180, Sr.)
CB Rocky Hayes (5-11, 177, Jr.)
FS Sterling Young (6-2, 193, Sr.)
SS Chris Humes (5-11, 207, Jr.)

Specialists

K Luke Ferguson (6-0, 210, Jr.)
P Paul Jones (6-2, 205, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

1 ▸ **Blaise Taylor,** ATH ★★★
2 ▸ **Nehemiah Wagner,** CB ★★★
3 ▸ **Chuks Ota,** DT ★★★

The Red Wolves are on their fourth coach in four seasons as former North Carolina offensive coordinator Blake Anderson takes over for Bryan Harsin, who left for Boise State. Anderson brought ace recruiter Walt Bell with him and that made an impact late on a class that ranked No. 3 in the Sun Belt. Taylor, who could project at cornerback or receiver at ASU, is the son of former Auburn and Tennessee assistant Trooper Taylor. The 5-8, 170-pounder was an outstanding high school player; the only question is which position fits him best in terms of long-term upside. Ota is a hometown hero who can help.

J.D. McKissic

Now on its fifth coach in as many years, Arkansas State has a team that should make the latest–Blake Anderson, most recently North Carolina's offensive coordinator–happy he arrived in Jonesboro for his first head-coaching gig.

Starting quarterback Adam Kennedy is gone after one season, leaving the Red Wolves in need of another signal-caller. At the front of the line is fleet-footed Fredi Knighten, who–after Kennedy went down–led Arkansas State past Ball State in its third straight GoDaddy Bowl appearance.

The Red Wolves are stacked with returning skill players who put up big numbers for an 8-5 team that shared the Sun Belt title with Louisiana under Bryan Harsin last season. Harsin left for the top job at Boise State, following in the one-and-done footsteps of Gus Malzahn (Auburn) and Hugh Freeze (Ole Miss) and opening the door for Anderson to take the controls.

Difference-maker

J.D. McKissic, WR

Last year was the encore of McKissic's 2012 SBC Freshman-of-the-Year performance. His eye-popping 82 receptions were down from 103 the year before. But he was also used as a rusher and kick returner in 2013, accumulating 121 total touches, 1,430 all-purpose yards and six touchdowns.

Among those at his command will be receiver J.D. McKissic, who averaged a Sun Belt-high 6.2 catches per game and an SBC-leading 30.0 yards per kick return last year; running back Michael Gordon, who had 754 yards and 10 touchdowns on 112 carries; and tight end Darion Griswold, who played quarterback in high school and averaged 13.0 yards on 24 catches last season. The unit–Sun Belt leader in rushing offense last year–also has a solid center in experienced Bryce Giddens, a junior who has started since the final 11 games of his true-freshman campaign in 2012.

Experience should also go a long way for the Red Wolves' defense in 2014. Eight starters return, including some dandies in jarring linebacker Qushaun Lee, who had a Sun Belt-high 134 total tackles in 2013; defensive backs Rocky Hayes (3 INTs) and Sterling Young, and defensive end Chris Stone. Arkansas State's entire starting secondary is back, in fact, as are all of its starting linebackers.

BOTTOM LINE

On paper it seems as if there's no reason A-State can't make a fourth consecutive bowl appearance and contend for at least a share of the Sun Belt title for a fourth straight year.

2 PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH
SUN BELT

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Montana State	
S.6	@ TENNESSEE	
S.13	@ MIAMI (FL)	
S.20	Utah State	
O.4	Louisiana-Monroe	42-14
O.11	@ GEORGIA STATE	35-33
O.21	@ LOUISIANA	7-23
N.1	@ IDAHO	48-24
N.8	South Alabama	17-16
N.15	Appalachian State	
N.22	@ TEXAS STATE	38-21
N.29	New Mexico State	

COACH

Blake Anderson
First year

Offensive coordinators:
Walt Bell (first year)
Glen Elarbee (first year)
Defensive coordinator:
Joe Cauthen (first year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Beat Ball State in the GoDaddy Bowl, 23-20)
Stadium: Liberty Bank Stadium (30,708)
Tickets: 888-278-3267
Site: Jonesboro, Ark.
Website: astateredwolves.com
Twitter: @AStateRedWolves

MCKISSIC: G.M. ANDREWS / AP

3 LOUISIANA-MONROE WARHAWKS

Kolton Browning is done following a stellar career, so Louisiana-Monroe coach Todd Berry must proceed without his steady, heady quarterback.

Brayle Brown got experience when Browning battled a quad injury last season. He was listed as the Warhawks' starter early in spring, but there's competition from Earnest Carrington, Brian Williams and other unproven youngsters. Whoever takes over must step in for a 10,000-yard career passer, a tough act for anyone to follow.

Centarius Donald

That puts the extra onus on surehanded Rashon Ceaser (65 grabs, 964 yards last season); Centarius Donald, ULM's top returning runner by yardage; Vincent Hobbs, a transfer tight end from Colorado; and NFL prospect Joseph Treadwell, leader of ULM's offensive line.

The Warhawks' special teams will utilize Ceaser on returns, and they also return kicker/punter Justin Manton, who averaged a Sun Belt-high 45.8 yards per punt in 2013.

Gerrand Johnson (11.0 tackles for loss in 2013) on the interior and Joey Gautney on the edge are critical up front for a defense that yielded 426.8 yards per game a season ago. The play of linebacker Ray Stovall will also be key, as will that of defensive backs Mitch Lane and Trey Caldwell. Lenzy Pipkins, meanwhile, moved from safety to cornerback and Tre' Hunter steps in at safety.

BOTTOM LINE: The Warhawks have some skill pieces in place. But with Browning gone from a 6-6 team that went to the 2012 Independence Bowl–and with a much-too-porous defense last year–becoming bowl-eligible again would be a commendable feat.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	Wake Forest	21-19
S.6	Idaho	
S.13	@ LSU	
S.27	Troy	49-37
O.4	@ ARKANSAS STATE	14-42
O.11	@ KENTUCKY	
O.25	Texas State	21-14
N.1	@ TEXAS A&M	
N.8	@ APPALACHIAN STATE	
N.15	Louisiana	31-28
N.22	@ NEW MEXICO STATE	
N.29	@ GEORGIA SOUTHERN	

COACH
Todd Berry
Fifth year (23-26)
Career record: 52-85

Offensive coordinator: Steve Farmer (seventh year)
Defensive coordinator: Troy Reffett (fifth year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 6-6
Stadium: Malone Stadium (30,427)
Tickets: 318-342-3ULM
Site: Monroe, La.
Online: ulmwarhawks.com
Twitter: @ULMWarhawks

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Brayle Brown (6-2, 200, Jr.)
RB Centarius Donald (6-1, 222, Sr.)
LT Jeremy Burton (6-3, 315, Sr.)
LG Ben Risenhoover (6-2, 296, Sr.)
C Colby Mitchell (6-1, 290, Jr.)
RG Demiere Burkett (6-2, 300, Sr.)
RT Joseph Treadwell (6-5, 325, Sr.)
TE Vincent Hobbs (6-3, 250, So.)
WR Ajalen Holley (5-10, 193, So.)
WR Rashon Ceaser (6-0, 190, Jr.)
WR Kenzee Jackson (5-10, 183, Sr.)

Defense
DE Darius Lively (6-3, 250, Sr.)
NT Gerrand Johnson (6-0, 280, Jr.)
DE Joey Gautney (6-2, 256, Sr.)
LB Ray Stovall (6-2, 230, Sr.)
LB Hunter Kissinger (6-2, 230, Jr.)
LB Michael Johnson (6-2, 226, Jr.)
CB Lenzy Pipkins (6-0, 191, So.)
CB Trey Caldwell (5-9, 186, Jr.)
S Tre' Hunter (6-0, 190, So.)
S Mitch Lane (6-1, 215, Jr.)
S Cordero Smith (5-11, 193, Sr.)

Specialists
K Justin Manton (6-2, 200, Sr.)
P Justin Manton (6-2, 200, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

4 SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS

South Alabama returns eight starters from an offense that averaged 29.4 points and 425.5 yards for 2013 Sun Belt Coach of the Year Joey Jones, but loses 28 seniors, including 15 who had been with the program since its 2009 inception.

Gone is quarterback Ross Metheny, who led the SBC in total offense last season. Replacement candidates include Brandon Bridge, a junior who had a solid spring, along with Trey Fetner, Grant Powell and Brett Sheehan. Top targets will be NFL prospect Wes Saxton (50 grabs, 635 yards) at tight end and wideout Shavarez Smith. Two transfers from Alabama, Marvin Shinn and Josh Magee, could contribute at wideout.

Shavarez Smith

South Alabama has almost 1,200 yards in returning ground production, including tailback starter Jay Jones' 737, and Kendall Houston is back with 26 career touchdowns. A big help should come from four returning starters along the offensive line, including standout tackles Chris May and Ucambre Williams. The Jaguars also get back star tackle Melvin Meggs, a three-year starter, following an ACL tear that cost him last season.

The Jags have holes along the defensive line, so tackles Jesse Kelley and Jerome McClain must step up there, and linebacker Enrique Williams graduated with his team-high 105 tackles. But a defense ranked among the Sun Belt's stingiest last season returns outside linebacker Maleki Harris (63 total tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss, 7 pass breakups) and all four secondary starters, including Qudarius Ford (76 tackles), Terrell Brigham (65) and Montell Garner (60).

BOTTOM LINE: South Alabama (6-6) was bowl-eligible in its second full FBS season, and could be again if the quarterback play is strong.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
S.6	@ KENT STATE	38-21
S.13	Mississippi State	
S.20	Georgia Southern	
S.27	@ IDAHO	
O.4	@ APPALACHIAN STATE	
O.18	Georgia State	38-17
O.25	Troy	33-34
N.1	@ LOUISIANA	30-8
N.8	@ ARKANSAS STATE	16-17
N.15	Texas State	31-33
N.22	@ SOUTH CAROLINA	
N.28	Navy	14-42

COACH
Joey Jones
Sixth year (31-21)
Career record: 31-21

Offensive coordinator: Robert Matthews (third year)
Defensive coordinator: Kevin Sherrer (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 6-6
Stadium: Aggie Memorial Stadium (30,343)
Tickets: 575-646-1420
Site: Las Cruces, N.M.
Online: nmstatesports.com
Twitter: @NMStateAggies

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Brandon Bridge (6-5, 220, Jr.)
RB Jay Jones (5-9, 190, Jr.)
LT Ucambre Williams (6-3, 290, Jr.)
LG Drew Dearman (6-3, 310, Jr.)
C Joseph Scelfo (6-1, 290, Fr.)
RG Shaun Artz (6-5, 295, Jr.)
RT Chris May (6-5, 290, So.)
TE Wes Saxton (6-4, 240, Jr.)
WR Jereme Jones (5-8, 165, Jr.)
WR Danny Woodson II (6-1, 210, So.)
WR Shavarez Smith (6-1, 200, Jr.)

Defense
DE Jimmie Gipson III (6-0, 255, So.)
DT Jesse Kelley (5-10, 270, Jr.)
DT Jerome McClain (6-3, 275, Jr.)
DE Theo Rich (6-2, 270, Jr.)
SLB Maleki Harris (6-1, 210, Jr.)
MLB Desmond LaVelle (5-11, 235, Jr.)
NIC Antonio Carter (5-8, 185, So.)
CB Qudarius Ford (5-8, 170, Jr.)
CB Montell Garner (6-1, 185, Jr.)
FS Terrell Brigham (6-0, 190, Jr.)
SS Roman Buchanan (6-2, 200, Fr.)

Specialists
K Aleem Sunanon (5-7, 185, Fr.)
P Brandon McKee (6-1, 175, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

AMERICAN ATHLETIC ACC BIG TEN BIG 12 C-USA MID-AMERICAN MOUNTAIN WEST PAC 12 SEC **SUN BELT** INDEPENDENTS

DONALD: DAVE MARTIN / AP; SMITH: G.M. ANDREWS / AP

5 TROY TROJANS

Troy held spring auditions to replace gaudy-numbers quarterback Corey Robinson, who threw for 3,219 yards last season. Two top contenders emerged: redshirt freshman Brandon Silvers and junior-college transfer Dontreal Pruitt. Dallas Tidwell, Troy's No. 3 the last two seasons, also returns as coach Larry Blakeney tries getting the Trojans back among the SBC elite.

Silvers was highly regarded out of high school. Juco All-American Pruitt completed 64.3 percent of his passes for 3,939 yards and 45 touchdowns while leading East Mississippi CC to the 2013 NJCAA title. In a 1A-1B situation, either could emerge in coordinator Kenny Edenfield's high-octane offense, which produced a league-high 34.1 points and 463.2 yards per game last season.

All-time SBC touchdown-receptions leader Eric Thomas is gone, too, but speedy Bryan Holmes returns on the outside with B.J. Chitty right behind. Chandler Worthy moves from the inside out, K.D. Edenfield steps into the slot and 6-5 juco import Jarvis Bentley is a tall target.

Quick Brandon Burks outrushed bruiser Jordan Chunn 675-514 last season with six more carries, but Chunn's 14 touchdowns led all NCAA freshman running backs. Troy's deep offensive line (only 19 sacks allowed) returns, among others, big tackle Terrence Jones. Ole Miss transfer Ethan Hutson should start immediately at guard.

But can Troy slow opponents? The Trojans yielded 35.9 points and a Sun Belt-worst 483.2 yards per game in 2013, so end Tyler Roberts and linebacker Mark Wilson need help, especially in the secondary.

Another issue is replacing graduated kicker/punter Will Scott.

BOTTOM LINE: The pressure is on the defense if Troy is to return to the Louisiana/Arkansas State stratosphere.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ UAB	34-31
S.6	Duke	31-38
S.13	Abilene Christian	
S.20	@ GEORGIA	
S.27	@ LOUISIANA-MONROE	37-49
O.11	New Mexico State	
O.18	Appalachian State	
O.25	@ SOUTH ALABAMA	34-33
N.1	@ GEORGIA SOUTHERN	
N.8	Georgia State	35-28
N.15	@ IDAHO	
N.29	Louisiana	36-41

COACH

Larry Blakeney
24th year (174-105-1)
Career record: 174-105-1

Offensive coordinator: Kenny Edenfield (fifth year)
Defensive coordinator: Wayne Bolt (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 6-6
Stadium: Veterans Memorial Stadium (30,000)
Tickets: 877-878-WINS
Site: Troy, Ala.
Online: troytrojans.com
Twitter: @TroyAthletics

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Brandon Silvers (6-2, 218, Fr.)
RB	Brandon Burks (5-9, 195, Jr.)
LT	Antonio Garcia (6-6, 290, So.)
LG	Ethan Hutson (6-4, 315, Jr.)
C	Caleb Carbine (6-1, 280, Sr.)
RG	Tommy Stephens (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RT	Terrence Jones (6-3, 320, Sr.)
WR	Chandler Worthy (5-9, 170, Sr.)
WR	Michael Lindsey (5-8, 160, So.)
WR	K.D. Edenfield (6-0, 194, Jr.)
WR	Bryan Holmes (5-11, 178, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Jamal Stadom (6-1, 240, Fr.)
DT	Billy Dobbs (6-4, 270, Sr.)
DT	Lonnie Gosha (6-2, 265, Jr.)
DE	Tyler Roberts (6-2, 220, Jr.)
LB	Wayland Coleman-Dancer (6-0, 212, Sr.)
MLB	Mark Wilson (6-3, 230, Sr.)
NIC	Jeremy Spikner (5-10, 181, Sr.)
CB	Jacquez Young (5-9, 174, Sr.)
CB	Ethan Davis (5-10, 182, Sr.)
FS	Montres Kitchens (5-11, 178, Jr.)
SS	JaQuadrian Lewis (5-11, 172, So.)

Specialists

K	Ryan Kay (6-1, 214, So.)
P	Ryan Kay (6-1, 214, So.)

Sporting News All-American

6 TEXAS STATE BOBCATS

Robert Lowe

With 14 players back who started at least six games on offense or defense last season, Texas State at least has some experience coming back from a 6-6 team for veteran coach Dennis Franchione.

Quarterback Tyler Jones got a good taste of things while throwing for 1,130 yards as a freshman, but the Bobcats stalled down the stretch–losing their final three–after he hurt his wrist. Robert Lowe is the Sun Belt's top returning rusher (945 yards), and Chris Nutall ran for another 477. They're all back in an offense that, wanting to run more plays per game, installed a no-huddle system in the spring.

Change also is in the air on defense in San Marcos, where veteran coach John Thompson–most recently the defensive coordinator and interim head coach for an Arkansas State team that came up with 21 turnovers last season–is installing his version of the 4-2-5.

The Bobcats have two superb linebackers in Michael Orakpo and David Mayo, who combined for 160 tackles last season; a small but active end in Michael Odiari; and a solid cornerback in Craig Mager. They also have a terrific kickoff-return man in receiver Brandon Smith, who averaged 29.9 yards and broke a 100-yarder last season.

BOTTOM LINE: Texas State has some talent on a team that only began FBS play in 2012, but lots will have to fall into place for the Bobcats to rise above .500 in 2014.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	
S.13	Navy	
S.20	@ ILLINOIS	
S.27	@ TULSA	
O.4	Idaho	37-21
O.14	Louisiana	24-48
O.25	@ LOUISIANA-MONROE	14-21
N.1	@ NEW MEXICO STATE	
N.8	Georgia Southern	
N.15	@ SOUTH ALABAMA	33-31
N.22	Arkansas State	21-38
N.29	@ GEORGIA STATE	24-17

COACH

Dennis Franchione
Sixth year (29-29)
Career record: 203-121-2

Offensive coordinator: Jeff Conway (third year)
Mike Schultz (fourth year)
Defensive coordinator: Craig Naivar (fourth year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 6-6
Stadium: Bobcat Stadium (30,000)
Tickets: 512-245-2272
Site: San Marcos, Texas
Online: txstatebobcats.com
Twitter: @TXSTATEBOBCATS

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Tyler Jones (6-2, 197, So.)
RB	Robert Lowe (5-10, 195, Jr.)
LT	Adrian Bellard (6-5, 345, Jr.)
LG	Felix Romero (6-4, 303, So.)
C	Matt Freeman (6-2, 271, Jr.)
RG	Jackson Hoskins (6-5, 316, Fr.)
RT	Ryan Melton (6-5, 339, So.)
TE	Bradley Miller (6-5, 229, Sr.)
WR	Ben Ijah (6-3, 210, Sr.)
WR	C.J. Best (5-10, 172, Jr.)
WR	Brandon Smith (6-2, 170, Jr.)

Defense

DE	Michael Odiari (6-0, 245, Sr.)
DT	Darius Hood (6-0, 280, So.)
DT	Dallas McClarty (5-11, 294, So.)
DE	Kris Petersen (6-4, 232, Sr.)
LB	Michael Orakpo (6-1, 226, Sr.)
LB	David Mayo (6-2, 228, Sr.)
CB	David Mims (5-11, 198, Jr.)
CB	Craig Mager (5-11, 190, Sr.)
S	Damani Alexcee (6-2, 175, So.)
S	Germod Williams (5-10, 159, So.)
S	Colby Targun (5-11, 190, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Jason Dann (6-0, 205, Sr.)
P	Will Johnson (6-3, 209, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

LOWE: ROGELIO V. SOLIS / AP

7 APPALACHIAN STATE MOUNTAINEERS

With one of the FCS' top runners coming off a big freshman campaign, Appalachian State will rush to make a statement while jumping into FBS play this year. Coming off a 4-8 season that was the Mountaineers' worst since 1993 makes the desire urgent.

Feature back Marcus Cox was the Jerry Rice Award (FCS Freshman of the Year) runner-up after leading the Southern Conference with 1,250 rushing yards and 21 total touchdowns, including a school-record 15 on the ground. He's among four ASU sophomores–along with Barrett Burns, John Law and Bentlee Critcher–who are critical to reversing the fortunes of second-year coach Scott Satterfield's team.

Marcus Cox

Last season's starting quarterback, Kameron Bryant, is protected again by 6-6, 292-pound NFL prospect Kendall Lamm at left tackle. After spending lots of time in the pocket while coming off of ACL knee surgery, Bryant should be more mobile this fall. Appalachian State has a tight end with great hands in Burns, and it will be a huge boost if speedy receiver Tacoi Sumler, a former University of Oregon player, can bounce back from knee issues.

Hard-hitting inside linebacker Law had three interceptions and 71 tackles (including 51 in the season's first half) before injury slowed him. He's a linchpin for a 3-4 defense that needs ends Ronald Blair, coming off of thumb surgery, and Deuce Robinson to step up.

Critcher averaged 45.9 yards per punt in 2013, second among all FCS punters.

BOTTOM LINE: In his second year after replacing Jerry Moore, who was 215-87 and won three FCS titles in 24 years, Satterfield faces a tall task in moving to FBS play while simultaneously working to maintain customary Mountaineer success.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ MICHIGAN	
S.6	Campbell	
S.20	@ SOUTHERN MISS	
S.27	@ GEORGIA SOUTHERN	38-14
O.4	South Alabama	
O.11	Liberty	
O.18	@ TROY	
N.1	Georgia State	
N.8	Louisiana-Monroe	
N.15	@ ARKANSAS STATE	
N.22	@ LOUISIANA	
N.29	Idaho	

COACH
Scott Satterfield
Second year (4-8)
Career record: 4-8

Offensive coordinators: Dwayne Ledford (second year), Frank Ponce (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Nate Woody (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 4-8
Stadium: Kidd Brewer Stadium (24,050)
Tickets: 828-262-2079
Site: Boone, N.C.
Website: appstatesports.com
Twitter: @AppState_FB

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Kameron Bryant (6-1, 210, Jr.)
RB Marcus Cox (5-10, 185, So.)
LT Kendall Lamm (6-6, 292, Sr.)
LG Beau Nunn (6-4, 265, Fr.)
C Graham Fisher (6-2, 285, Sr.)
RG Parker Collins (6-3, 290, So.)
RT Davante Harris (6-6, 295, Jr.)
TE Barrett Burns (6-4, 220, So.)
WR Malachi Jones (6-1, 180, Jr.)
WR Tacoi Sumler (5-9, 173, Jr.)
WR Bobo Beathard (5-10, 191, Jr.)

Defense
DE Ronald Blair (6-4, 275, Sr.)
NT Tyson Fernandez (6-2, 325, So.)
DE Deuce Robinson (6-5, 252, Sr.)
OLB Rashaad Townes (6-2, 210, So.)
ILB Brandon McGowan (6-2, 231, Sr.)
ILB John Law (6-0, 225, So.)
OLB Kennan Gilchrist (6-2, 200, So.)
CB Joel Ross (5-10, 188, Sr.)
CB Dante Blackmon (5-11, 185, So.)
FS Doug Middleton (6-0, 203, Jr.)
SS Kevin Walton (6-0, 190, Jr.)

Specialists
K Zach Matics (6-2, 186, Jr.)
P Bentlee Critcher (6-1, 175, So.)

Sporting News All-American

8 GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLES

It's "Goodbye, triple option" at Georgia Southern and "Hello, Willie Fritz," who'll implement a spread with the Eagles after moving from Sam Houston State to Statesboro in the offseason.

Georgia Southern amassed 3,964 rushing yards last year–more than any FCS team–under Jeff Monken, who left to become head coach at Army. But the Eagles passed for only 1,002. At SHSU, where he was 40-15 in four years with two appearances in the FCS title game, Fritz's 41.1 points-per-game Bearkats weren't nearly so lopsided–and he doesn't want the Eagles to be, either. So the system's new, the terminology's new, and the personnel is a mix of new and old as Georgia Southern will go with much more pistol/shotgun formations.

Dual-threat quarterback Kevin Ellison is back, but he'll be pushed by L.A. Ramsby (following knee surgery that cost him last season), Florida International transfer Favian Upshaw and Vegas Harley. The winner of the QB competition will play behind an undersized offensive line built more for the option than the spread.

Running back Dominique Swope, who rushed for 1,033 yards in 2011 and 1,246 in 2012 before missing most of last year with a shoulder injury, was removed from the team following a February legal matter. Stepping in for Swope will be either juco transfer Ken Thomas, who ran for 1,334 yards last season for NJCAA champ East Mississippi, or promising redshirt frosh Chaz Thornton.

Defensively, Georgia Southern will use a 4-2-5 base under coordinator Jack Curtis, but may add some Fritz-inspired wrinkles, perhaps including a 4-3 look at times.

BOTTOM LINE: The 7-4 Eagles exited FCS play in 2013 with a bang, winning at Florida while rushing for 429 yards and not completing a single pass. Early visits to N.C. State and Georgia Tech, however, will make transitioning to FBS challenging from the get-go.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	@ N.C. STATE	
S.6	Savannah State	77-9
S.13	@ GEORGIA TECH	
S.20	@ SOUTH ALABAMA	
S.27	Appalachian State	14-38
O.4	@ NEW MEXICO STATE	
O.11	Idaho	
O.25	@ GEORGIA STATE	
N.1	Troy	
N.8	@ TEXAS STATE	
N.15	@ NAVY	
N.29	Louisiana-Monroe	

COACH
Willie Fritz
First year
Career record: 137-62

Offensive coordinator: Doug Ruse (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Jack Curtis (fourth year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 7-4
Stadium: Allen E. Paulson Stadium (21,000)
Tickets: 800-478-9467
Site: Statesboro, Ga.
Website: gseagles.com
Twitter: @GSAthletics

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Kevin Ellison (6-0, 181, So.)
RB Chaz Thornton (5-9, 182, Fr.)
LT Garrett Frye (6-5, 290, Sr.)
LG Darien Foreman (6-4, 311, Jr.)
C Manrey Saint-Amour (6-1, 282, Sr.)
RG Trevor McBurnett (6-1, 301, Sr.)
RT Raymond Klugey (6-3, 281, Sr.)
TE Nardo Govan (6-2, 252, Jr.)
WR B.J. Johnson (6-1, 213, Jr.)
WR Montay Crockett (6-0, 176, So.)
WR Zach Walker (6-1, 188, Sr.)

Defense
DE Rashad Williams (6-1, 253, Sr.)
DT Jonathan Battle (6-1, 277, Jr.)
DT Jay Ellison (6-2, 306, So.)
DE Bernard Dawson (6-2, 234, So.)
OLB Antwione Williams (6-3, 239, Jr.)
MLB Edwin Jackson (5-11, 226, Sr.)
NIC Deion Stanley (5-9, 193, Sr.)
CB Valdon Cooper (5-11, 179, Sr.)
CB Darius Jones (5-10, 178, So.)
FS Matt Dobson (6-0, 201, Jr.)
SS Robert Brice (5-11, 190, So.)

Specialists
K Alex Hanks (5-9, 180, Jr.)
P Ryan Nowicki (6-0, 205, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

COX: DAVID GOLDMAN / AP

9 NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES

It's all about improved fundamentals for New Mexico State, where improving tackling and blocking is high on the to-do list.

The Aggies sought plenty of spring experience for juco-transfer quarterback Tyler Rogers, a dual threat who threw for 1,832 yards in one season at Arizona Western. NFL center prospect Valerian Ume-Ezeoke and Andy Cunningham return to protect Rogers, who won't have last season's top target to throw to after Austin Franklin turned pro early.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A.28	Cal Poly
S.6	@ GEORGIA STATE
S.13	@ UTEP
S.20	New Mexico
S.27	@ LSU
O.4	Georgia Southern
O.11	@ TROY
O.18	@ IDAHO
N.1	Texas State
N.8	Louisiana
N.22	Louisiana-Monroe
N.29	@ ARKANSAS STATE

Doug Martin–Kent State's head coach from 2004-10, and a former offensive coordinator at four different programs–went 2-10 in his first year in Las Cruces. Offensive continuity should be helped as former Bowling Green head coach Gregg Brandon returns to a program that's churned through coordinators of late.

New defensive coordinator Larry Coyer, who held the same job for the Indianapolis Colts from 2009-11, takes over a unit that lost safety Davis Cazares, its top tackler last season, but returns linebacker Rodney Butler, who had 39 tackles as a freshman. The Aggies, who have a reliable kicker in Maxwell Johnson, lost the first seven games of 2013. But Martin hopes to ride a season-ending win over Idaho into 2014.

BOTTOM LINE: Unless Tyler Rogers plays more like Aaron Rodgers, it could take time for NMSU–which hasn't been to a bowl since 1960–to turn things around.

QUICK HITS

2013 RECORD: 2-10

Coach: Doug Martin (second year, 2-10)
Career record: 31-63
Offensive coordinator: Gregg Brandon (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Larry Coyer (first year)

Stadium: Aggie Memorial Stadium (30,343)
Tickets: 575-646-1420
Site: Las Cruces, N.M.
Online: nmstatesports.com
Twitter: @NMStateAggies

10 IDAHO VANDALS

An under-the-belt season should help coach Paul Petrino (younger brother of Louisville coach Bobby) in his second year at Idaho, even if the 1-11 Vandals did close with a seven-game losing streak and managed only a two-point home win over Temple.

It was all about competition this spring for Idaho, which opens this season at Florida. The biggest battle may have been between sophomore quarterback Chad Chalich and redshirt freshman Matt Linehan, son of ex-Idaho QB, former St. Louis Rams head coach and current Dallas Cowboys passing-game coordinator Scott Linehan.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A.30	@ FLORIDA
S.6	@ LOUISIANA-MONROE
S.13	Western Michigan
S.20	@ OHIO
S.27	South Alabama
O.4	@ TEXAS STATE
O.11	@ GEORGIA SOUTHERN
O.18	New Mexico State
N.1	Arkansas State
N.8	@ SAN DIEGO STATE
N.15	Troy
N.29	@ APPALACHIAN STATE

Last season, Chalich was 113-of-184 passing for 1,224 yards with five touchdowns and three interceptions in seven starts before a shoulder injury. Petrino says he and Linehan are "light-years" ahead after a year in his offense. Both got extra spring reps as reserve QB Josh McCain transitioned to receiver. Several juco transfers–namely receivers Kenny Torrence and Jermaine Johnson, and 6-2, 248-pound running back Elijhaa Perry–could contribute immediately as the Vandals gamble on a quick fix.

Idaho's defense will build around ends Maxx Forde and Quinton Bradley and linebacker Marc Millan.

BOTTOM LINE: There may be more growing pains to get where Petrino wants this program to be. Winning consistently at home in the Kibbie Dome is a good place to start.

QUICK HITS

2013 RECORD: 1-11

Coach: Paul Petrino (second year, 1-11)
Career record: 1-11
Offensive coordinator: Kris Cinkovich (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Ronnie Lee (second year)

Stadium: Kibbie Dome (16,000)
Tickets: (208) 885-6466
Site: Moscow, Idaho
Website: govandals.com
Twitter: @Idaho_Vandals

11 GEORGIA STATE PANTHERS

With 27 seniors departing an 0-12 team, construction is the name of the game at Georgia State. Coach Trent Miles' club is stronger and faster, but depth is limited and open positions in springtime were plentiful.

Quarterback Ronnie Bell threw for 2,573 yards last season, but was picked off 11 times. With consistency a main concern, Pierce (Calif.) College juco transfer Nick Arbuckle and incoming freshman Emiere Scaife will challenge Bell and reserves Ben McLane and Clay Chastain for the job.

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
A.27	Abilene Christian
S.6	New Mexico State
S.13	Air Force
S.20	@ WASHINGTON
O.4	@ LOUISIANA
O.11	Arkansas State
O.18	@ SOUTH ALABAMA
O.25	Georgia Southern
N.1	@ APPALACHIAN STATE
N.8	@ TROY
N.22	@ CLEMSON
N.29	Texas State

Losing speedy receiver Albert Wilson hurts, prompting hope that Robert Davis helps a team that fell by seven points or fewer in four losses but 28-plus in four others. Offensive-line aid comes from juco transfers Taylor Evans (6-4, 285 pounds), Michael Ivory (6-5, 360) and Steve Wolgamott (6-6, 315).

Linebacker Joseph Peterson, GSU's top tackler two seasons running, leads a defense that yielded an SBC-worst 36.7 points per game. Two key youngsters–outside linebacker Mackendy Cheridor and lineman Shawayne Lawrence–and juco cornerback Marcus Caffey must help. Cheridor, up 20 pounds to 255 from high school, has an NFL build.

Senior punter Matt Hubbard carries a 42.3-yard career average.

BOTTOM LINE: With 14 true freshmen starting at least once last season, the Panthers at least have a head start on what may be a lengthy project.

QUICK HITS

2013 RECORD: 0-12

Coach: Trent Miles (second year, 0-12)
Career record: 20-48
Offensive coordinator: Jeff Jagodzinski (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Jesse Minter (second year)

Stadium: Georgia Dome (28,155)
Tickets: 866-GA-STATE
Site: Atlanta
Website: georgiastatesports.com
Twitter: @GSUPanthers

NOTRE DAME
FIGHTING IRISH

Everett Golson

2014 SN NATIONAL RANK 14

Bowl Projection: Orange Bowl

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Rice	
S.6	Michigan	30-41
S.13	Purdue*	31-24
S.27	Syracuse**	
O.4	Stanford	
O.11	North Carolina	
O.18	@ FLORIDA STATE	
N.1	Navy***	38-34
N.8	@ ARIZONA STATE	37-34
N.15	Northwestern	
N.22	Louisville	
N.29	@ USC	14-10

*At Indianapolis
**At East Rutherford, NJ
***At Landover, MD

COACH
Brian Kelly
Fifth year (37-15)
Career record: 208-72-2

Offensive coordinator: Mike Denbrock (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Brian VanGorder (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 9-4
(Beat Rutgers in the Pinstripe Bowl, 29-16)
Stadium: Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)
Tickets: 574-631-7356
Site: South Bend, Ind.
Website: und.com
Twitter: @NDFootball

It's an old cliché, but it's hard to argue: Offense sells tickets, but defense wins championships.

Notre Dame has filled its stadium every game since Thanksgiving 1966, so selling tickets isn't a concern.

It's that championship thing that has confounded Notre Dame since 1988.

If this Irish team wants to have a chance to be in the conversation when it comes time to pick the four playoff teams, a defense lacking veteran punch up front will have to rise to the occasion.

Notre Dame's offense will be much more dependable than a year ago.

Everett Golson, who missed last season after being dismissed from the university for academic reasons, is back at quarterback looking bigger and better than ever. His ability to extend a play, and make something out of nothing with his elusiveness, gives the Irish offense a dimension it lacked last season.

It's the defense that will have to work through a decimated front seven in order to rekindle the magic that carried the Irish to the BCS National Championship Game in 2012.

In a perfect college football world, Notre Dame could have had an imposing defensive front of Louis Nix, Stephon Tuitt, Aaron Lynch and Eddie Vanderdoes this season. Coach Brian Kelly had quite a blueprint for domination.

However, imperfection took hold. Nix and Tuitt left for the NFL with a year of eligibility on the table; Lynch transferred to South Florida after a year; and Vanderdoes bolted to UCLA shortly after signing his letter-of-intent with the Irish.

Now it's time for new defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder, hired after predecessor Bob Diaco took over as head coach at Connecticut, to develop enough raw talent to give his unit a chance to be dominant.

It all starts inside with Sheldon Day. A mainstay of the defensive line last season, Day collected 33 tackles and five stops for lost yardage. Jarron Jones, called on to fill in when injuries sidelined Nix, is the best bet to get the call at the other tackle.

VanGorder's 4-3 alignment, different from

Difference-maker
Everett Golson, QB

After leading Notre Dame to an undefeated regular season and the BCS National Championship Game as a freshman two years ago, much was expected out of Golson in 2013. However, 2013 came without Golson, who was suspended from school for cheating on a test, and the Fighting Irish came up well short of another title bid with a 9-4 season. That fact alone illustrates just how important the return of the Myrtle Beach, S.C., senior is. He threw for 2,405 yards and rushed for 298 in 2012. His presence makes the Irish an instant threat to be a national title contender.

GOLSON: NAM Y. HUH / AP

Diaco's 3-4, will move former linebackers Ishaq Williams and Romeo Okwara closer to the line of scrimmage as defensive ends.

The linebacker position may be a bit lean, too. There's Jaylon Smith, a sophomore destined to be a big-time player, and then there's ... Well?

Smith has played outside his entire career. Recognizing the serious lack of dynamic athletes at middle linebacker, he will be moved around to several different positions, most notably inside. Highly touted incoming freshman Nyles Morgan could be the next best bet there.

KeiVarae Russell, in his third year as a starter at cornerback, will be joined by Cody Riggs, who played safety at Florida. The former Gator graduated with a year of eligibility left and signed on with the Irish. Max Redfield and Austin Collinsworth are the top candidates at safety.

If the defense can establish itself as a force to be reckoned with, the Irish will be in good shape, because the offense promises to be high-octane.

Kelly turned play-calling over to offensive coordinator Chuck Martin last season. When Martin left to become head coach at Miami (Ohio) and Mike Denbrock was elevated from receivers coach to coordinator in the offseason, Kelly resumed what he had done the first three years and will make the calls.

Having Golson around makes those plays–which will be executed at a quick pace–a lot easier. By the end of 2012, he was quite a weapon. An extended time with QB guru George Whitfield seems to have added mental enhancement to the physical skills.

Tarean Folston, Cam McDaniel and Greg Bryant make for a quality stable of running backs. DaVaris Daniels, Will Fuller and Corey Robinson, along with tight end Ben Koyack, give Golson plenty of receiving targets.

Center Nick Martin, right guard Christian Lombard and left tackle Ronnie Stanley are the key components on the line.

BOTTOM LINE

Notre Dame will go as far as the defense takes it. Are there enough dynamic athletes on that side of the ball to make something special happen? Again, selling tickets isn't the goal for the Irish.

–Al Lesar

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

The Irish focused on continuing to land size and depth in the trenches on both sides of the ball while looking to take only difference-makers at the skill positions. The 22-player class that ranked No. 10 nationally includes four touted offensive linemen who are led by tackles Quenton Nelson and Alex Bars, a legacy. Ten players in this class are front-seven defenders, highlighted by end Andrew Trumbetti, a January enrollee who will be tough to keep off the field as a true freshman and, linebacker Nyles Morgan. Receiver Justin Brent also enrolled early and looks college-ready. Cornerback Nick Watkins, defensive lineman Grant Blankenship and linebacker Kolin Hill all turned down an in-state Texas offer to play for the Irish.

TOP SIGNEES 247 SPORTS

1. Nyles Morgan, LB ★★★★
2. Quenton Nelson, OT ★★★★
3. Justin Brent, WR ★★★★

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Everett Golson (2012)	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	12	131.0	187-318-6	58.8	2405	12	200.4

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Cam McDaniel	13	152	705	4.6	3	54.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
DaVaris Daniels	13	49	745	15.2	7	57.3

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Jaylon Smith	13	41	26	67

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Ishaq Williams	11	1.0	8
Jarron Jones	12	1.0	7

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Matthias Farley	2	39	19.5	0

Matthias Farley

FARLEY: NAM Y. HUH / AP

2013 TEAM STATS

STATISTIC	ND	OPP
SCORING	354	291
Points Per Game	27.2	22.4
FIRST DOWNS	267	280
Rushing	95	130
Passing	149	127
Penalty	23	23
RUSHING YARDAGE	1963	2184
Yards gained rushing	2178	2472
Yards lost rushing	215	288
Rushing Attempts	440	522
Average Per Rush	4.5	4.2
Average Per Game	151.0	168.0
TDs Rushing	12	13
PASSING YARDAGE	3313	2576
Comp-Att-Int	226-429-13	240-408-13
Average Per Pass	7.7	6.3
Average Per Catch	14.7	10.7
Average Per Game	254.8	198.2
TDs Passing	27	19
TOTAL OFFENSE	5276	4760
Total Plays	869	930
Average Per Play	6.1	5.1
Average Per Game	405.8	366.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	42-998	40-1027
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	15-106	17-161
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-93	13-159
KICK RETURN AVG.	23.8	25.7
PUNT RETURN AVG.	7.1	9.5
INT RETURN AVG.	7.2	12.2
FUMBLES-LOST	7-4	12-4
PENALTIES-YARDS	73-598	70-648
Average Per Game	46.0	49.8
PUNTS-YARDS	52-2045	59-2373
Average Per Punt	39.3	40.2
Net punt average	34.7	35.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:07	30:53
3RD-DOWN CONV.	74/176	80/192
3rd-Down Pct.	42%	42%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/13	6/19
4th-Down Pct.	38%	32%
SACKS BY-YARDS	21-148	8-63
MISC YARDS	4	0
TDS SCORED	42	34
FG-ATTEMPTS	20-27	18-25
ATTENDANCE	484770	336945
Games/Avg Per Game	6/80795	5/67389
Neutral Site Games		2/57041

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Notre Dame	89	84	86	95	0	354
Opponent	76	89	53	73	0	291

5-YEAR RECORD 43-21

DEPTH CHART

Offense

QB	Everett Golson (6-0, 200, Sr.)
	Malik Zaire (6-0, 208, So.)
RB	Tarean Folston (5-9, 207, So.)
	Greg Bryant (5-10, 204, So.)
LT	Ronnie Stanley (6-6, 318, Jr.)
	Steve Elmer (6-6, 317, So.)
LG	Steve Elmer (6-6, 317, So.)
	Connor Hanratty (6-5, 309, Sr.)
C	Nick Martin (6-5, 295, Sr.)
	Matt Hegarty (6-5, 300, Sr.)
RG	Christian Lombard (6-5, 315, Sr.)
	Mark Harrell (6-4, 305, Jr.)
RT	Mike McGlinchey (6-8, 300, So.)
	John Montelus (6-4, 320, So.)
TE	Ben Koyack (6-5, 261, Sr.)
	Durham Smythe (6-5, 242, So.)
WR	DaVaris Daniels (6-2, 203, Jr.)
	Chris Brown (6-2, 191, Jr.)
WR	Corey Robinson (6-4, 205, So.)
	Torii Hunter, Jr. (6-0, 190, So.)
WR	Amir Carlisle (5-10, 190, Sr.)
	Will Fuller (6-0, 171, So.)

Defense

DE	Romeo Okwara (6-4, 258, Jr.)
	Anthony Rabasa (6-3, 243, Sr.)
DT	Sheldon Day (6-2, 290, Jr.)
	Tony Springmann (6-6, 296, Sr.)
DT	Jarron Jones (6-5, 310, Jr.)
	Isaac Rochell (6-4, 287, So.)
DE	Ishaq Williams (6-5, 271, Sr.)
	Chase Hounshell (6-4, 271, Sr.)
OLB	Joe Schmidt (6-0, 230, Sr.)
	John Turner (6-1, 217, Jr.)
MLB	Jaylon Smith (6-2, 230, So.)
	Michael Deeb (6-2, 245, So.)
OLB	Ben Councell (6-5, 254, Sr.)
	Nyles Morgan (6-2, 223, Fr.)
CB	KeiVarae Russell (5-11, 190, Jr.)
	Devin Butler (6-1, 181, So.)
CB	Cody Riggs (5-9, 190, Sr.)
	Matthias Farley (5-11, 204, Sr.)
S	Max Redfield (6-1, 194, So.)
	Nicky Baratti (6-1, 206, Jr.)
S	Austin Collinsworth (6-1, 205, Sr.)
	Eilar Hardy (5-11, 201, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Tyler Newsome (6-3, 190, Fr.)
P	Kyle Brindza (6-1, 236, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

NAVY MIDSHIPMEN

Keenan Reynolds

Bowl Projection: Poinsettia Bowl

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.30	Ohio State*	
S.6	@ TEMPLE	
S.13	@ TEXAS STATE	
S.20	Rutgers	
S.27	Western Kentucky	7-19
O.4	@ AIR FORCE	28-10
O.11	VMI	
O.25	San Jose State	58-52
N.1	Notre Dame**	34-38
N.15	Georgia Southern	
N.28	@ SOUTH ALABAMA	42-14
D.13	Army*	34-7

*At Baltimore
**At Landover, MD

COACH
Ken Niumatalolo
Eighth year (49-30)
Career record: 49-30

Offensive coordinator: Ivin Jasper (seventh year)
Defensive coordinator: Buddy Green (13th year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 9-4
(Beat Middle Tennessee in the Armed Forces Bowl, 24-6)
Stadium: Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000)
Tickets: 800-US4-NAVY
Site: Annapolis, Md.
Website: navysports.com
Twitter: @NavyAthletics

The Navy Midshipmen are currently in the midst of one of the best runs in school history. For the ninth time in the last 11 seasons, the Middies took home the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. They advanced to their 10th bowl in the last 11 years. Most importantly, they knocked off archrival Army for the 12th consecutive campaign. And with 15 returning starters, seventh-year head coach Ken Niumatalolo is looking to raise the bar even higher in 2014.

One common theme during Navy's current run of success has been great quarterback play. But the best of the bunch may be junior Keenan Reynolds. Reynolds, who started half the 2012 season before taking over full time last year, set an NCAA record for a quarterback with 31 rushing touchdowns, including a seven-score day against San Jose State. Reynolds passed for 1,057 yards (8 TDs, 2 INTs) while rushing for 1,346.

The Midshipmen bring back players who accounted for 84 percent of the team's rushing yards. Fullbacks Noah Copeland, Chris Swain and Quinton Singleton combined to rush for 1,120 yards and eight touchdowns. Slotback Geoffrey Whiteside gained 363 yards on just 49 carries, good for a 7.4-yard average. Leading receiver DeBrandon Sanders (340 rushing yards) returns as well after catching 13 passes for 223 yards as the other slotback. Oh, and the offensive line returns four starters.

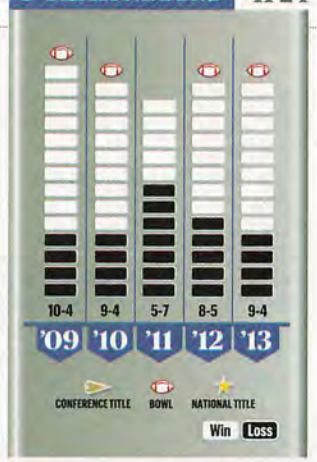
On defense, the Midshipmen lost their top two tacklers in Cody Peterson (142) and D.J. Sargenti (110). But seven starters do return, including senior outside linebacker Chris Johnson, who recorded 84 tackles and tied for the team lead with three interceptions. Free safety Parrish Gaines is one of three returning starters in the secondary. The 6-2, 196-pound senior, who like offensive star Reynolds hails from Tennessee, has started 31 straight games in his career and recorded 65 tackles and three interceptions in 2013. The Midshipmen recorded just 11 sacks last season, which ranked 120th in the nation.

Difference-maker
Keenan Reynolds, QB

As a passer Reynolds threw for slightly more than 1,000 yards and eight touchdowns in 2013. But the Midshipmen do their damage on the ground, and Reynolds was lethal in that regard, rushing for 1,346 yards and 31 touchdowns. In doing so, Reynolds became the first FBS quarterback ever to rush for 30 or more touchdowns in a season.

BOTTOM LINE
The 2013 Midshipmen were just the fifth team in 132 years of Navy football to win nine games, beat Army and win a bowl game. Most of that talent returns to Annapolis this year. With a favorable schedule, Navy's final season as an independent should be a memorable one–and one that extends the Army streak to a baker's dozen. *–Will Long*

5-YEAR RECORD 41-24



PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense
QB Keenan Reynolds (5-11, 185, Jr.)
FB Noah Copeland (5-10, 214, Sr.)
SB Geoffrey Whiteside (5-10, 171, Sr.)
SB DeBrandon Sanders (5-7, 160, Jr.)
LT Bradyn Heap (6-3, 288, Sr.)
LG E.K. Binns (6-3, 287, Jr.)
C Tanner Fleming (6-2, 276, Sr.)
RG Jake Zuzek (6-0, 310, Sr.)
RT Joey Gaston (6-5, 281, Jr.)
WR Jamir Tillman (6-3, 190, So.)
WR Brendan Dudeck (6-0, 202, Sr.)

Defense
DE Paul Quessenberry (6-2, 251, Sr.)
NG Bernard Sarra (6-1, 303, Jr.)
DE Will Anthony (6-1, 238, Jr.)
OLB Chris Johnson (6-1, 207, Sr.)
ILB James Britton (6-2, 223, Sr.)
ILB Don Pearson (6-3, 224, Jr.)
OLB Jordan Drake (6-4, 220, Sr.)
CB Brendon Clements (5-10, 185, So.)
CB Kwazel Bertrand (5-10, 186, Jr.)
FS Parrish Gaines (6-2, 196, Sr.)
SS Lonnie Richardson (5-11, 188, Sr.)

Specialists
K Nick Sloan (6-0, 190, Jr.)
P Pablo Beltran (6-2, 225, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES
1 Josh Brown, RB ★★★
2 Trenton Noller, C ★★★
3 Parker Wade, C/OG ★★

Seven linemen highlight a solid class for the Midshipmen. Brown played prep football at Brookwood in Snellville, Ga., outside of Atlanta, in one of the toughest leagues in the country, so he's battle-tested and could contribute early in his Navy career. The Midshipmen found some things they liked in Tennessee for the 2014 cycle, inking Wade from Nashville Ensworth, offensive tackle Stephen Satchell from Thompson's Station (south of Nashville) and outside linebacker DJ Palmore from Memphis Christian Brothers. Texas defensive end Micah Thomas is undersized (6-1, 235) but can get to the passer.

REYNOLDS: MATT STRASEN / AP

BYU COUGARS

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Taysom Hill (6-2, 221, Jr.)
RB	Jamaal Williams (6-0, 200, Jr.)
RB	Paul Lasike (6-0, 227, Sr.)
RT	Michael Yeck (6-8, 292, Sr.)
RG	Tuni Kanuch (6-2, 325, Fr.)
C	Brayden Kearsley (6-4, 295, So.)
LG	Ryker Mathews (6-6, 309, Jr.)
LT	De'Ondre Wesley (6-7, 330, Sr.)
TE	Devin Mahina (6-6, 247, Sr.)
WR	Ross Apo (6-3, 207, Sr.)
WR	Jordan Leslie (6-3, 210, Sr.)

Defense

DL	Remington Peck (6-4, 250, Jr.)
DL	Marques Johnson (6-2, 308, Sr.)
DL	Graham Rowley (6-4, 280, Jr.)
LB	Alani Fua (6-5, 215, Sr.)
LB	Manoa Pikula (6-1, 235, Jr.)
LB	Teu Kautai (6-1, 220, Jr.)
LB	Bronson Kaufusi (6-7, 263, Jr.)
CB	Jordan Johnson (5-10, 185, Sr.)
CB	Trent Trammell (6-0, 190, Jr.)
S	Craig Bills (6-1, 205, Sr.)
S	Robertson Daniel (6-1, 198, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Trevor Samson (5-11, 172, Sr.)
P	Scott Arellano (6-1, 190, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RECRUITING REPORT by 247 SPORTS

TOP SIGNEES

247 STAR RATING

1. **Fred Warner,** LB ★★★★
2. **Nick Kurtz,** WR ★★★
3. **Devon Blackmon,** WR ★★★

The Cougars signed a small class in number (19) but added some good pieces. Blackmon, who was one of the top recruits in the country coming out of high school, signed with Oregon but then left for Riverside (Calif.) CC before bouncing back. He still has good potential. Defensive end Isaiah Nacua (Las Vegas/Bishop Gorman) has All-America potential and was underrated by recruiting analysts because of his 6-2 height. He's one of those players who will be the exception rather than the rule when it comes to size. At 6-6, Kurtz is a huge target that could impact the Cougars' passing game quickly.

Taysom Hill

No doubt about it, BYU's offense can move the football and score points.

But can the Cougar defense hold up its end of the bargain?

That's the question that coach Bronco Mendenhall, in his 10th year at the helm in Provo, will have to answer in order to rebound from last year's five-loss season as an independent.

The plan is to find an anchor in the middle and build from there.

Cougar fans have been spoiled the past few seasons with dynamic athletes at inside linebacker. Two years ago, it was Brandon Ogletree who collected 102 tackles as the leader. Last year, it was Uani 'Unga (143 tackles).

Now is the time for Manoa Pikula to emerge.

The 6-1, 235-pound junior collected 31 tackles and three sacks last season as a role player on a defense that yielded 219 passing yards a game.

Putting pressure on the quarterback will be a priority for BYU. Marques Johnson will be a disruptive force along a defensive front that will be maturing as the season wears on. Linebacker Bronson Kaufusi, who stands 6-7 and had four sacks last season, will be counted on to improve his game. Craig Bills (79 tackles) and Robertson Daniel (66) are the key returnees in the secondary.

Quarterback Taysom Hill is the catalyst of a powerful BYU offensive attack. His ability to shred a defense with his arm and his legs creates plenty of headaches for opposing defenses.

While defenses key on Hill, it opens up things for running back Jamaal Williams. He ended last season with 1,233 rushing yards and seven touchdowns.

The mammoth duo of Michael Yeck (6-8, 292 pounds) and De'Ondre Wesley (6-7, 330) will have the most experience along the offensive line.

Difference-maker

Taysom Hill, QB

Stop the junior signal-caller, and you can bring the BYU offense to its knees. Whether it's with his arm or his legs, Hill is the guy who makes the Cougars roll. Last season, Hill was responsible for 4,282 yards of total offense (1,344 rushing, 2,938 passing) and 29 touchdowns. In six of his 13 games, the big-armed QB threw for more than 250 yards. His mere presence changes the dynamic of the BYU attack.

BOTTOM LINE

A much less demanding schedule and a high-octane offense could allow BYU to be a player among the nation's elite this season. It will be up to the Cougar defense to decide how far this team can go. With the second game on the schedule being at Texas, there won't be much of an opportunity for the defense to grow into a cohesive unit.

That will have to happen right out of the gate.

–Al Lesar

Bowl Projection: Hawaii Bowl

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.29	@ CONNECTICUT	
S.6	@ TEXAS	40-21
S.11	Houston	47-46
S.20	Virginia	16-19
O.3	Utah State	31-14
O.11	@ UCF	
O.18	Nevada	28-23
O.24	@ BOISE STATE	37-20
N.1	@ MIDDLE TENN. STATE	37-10
N.15	UNLV	
N.22	Savannah State	
N.29	@ CALIFORNIA	

COACH

Bronco Mendenhall
10th year (82-34)
Career record: 82-34

Offensive coordinator: Robert Anae (eighth year)
Defensive coordinator: Nick Howell (second year)

FAST FACTS

2013 RECORD: 8-5
(Lost to Washington in the Fight Hunger Bowl, 31-16)
Stadium: LaVell Edwards Stadium (63,470)
Tickets: 800-322-BYU-1
Site: Provo, Utah
Website: byucougars.com
Twitter: @BYUcougars

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HILL: MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ / AP

ARMY
BLACK KNIGHTS

In four seasons as head coach at Georgia Southern, Jeff Monken authored a 38-16 record. In his first year at West Point, he leads a program that went 15-34 during the same span.

But Monken, a former Navy assistant, knows what it takes to succeed at service academies. He's also the perfect fit for Army's longstanding offensive scheme, the flexbone, and a potential solvent for its defensive struggles.

Monken has run the triple option throughout his coaching career. Backs Terry Baggett and Larry Dixon thrived in the offense last year as juniors, combining for 1,828 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns. Splitting time at quarterback were elusive 5-11 junior Angel Santiago, who rushed for 10 touchdowns, and 6-0 sophomore A.J. Schurr (4 rushing TDs). The duo will likely compete all season for starts, especially if the Black Knights can't string together some wins.

With an undersized offensive line built for the triple option, it helps that three of the five–Steve Shumaker, Ryan Powis, and Justin Gilbert–are returning starters.

Monken will not be familiar with what he has inherited on defense, though. Army allowed 1,000 more yards and 17 more offensive touchdowns than his Georgia Southern squad in 2013.

Senior secondary man Geoffery Bacon is the lone standout. Despite being slowed by injuries, he recorded 63 tackles last year and has made 199 over the past two seasons. Other significant defensive contributors back from last year are sophomore cornerback Josh Jenkins (2 INTs) and senior lineman Robert Kough, who had eight tackles for loss.

BOTTOM LINE: Monken says the Black Knights are not the same squad that finished 3-9 last year. But that psychology doesn't amend a schedule that includes Stanford, Wake Forest, Ball State and Navy, all of which beat Army by at least two touchdowns last year. This season will likely be woefully identical to 2013.

–Michael Gentry

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
S.6	Buffalo	
S.13	@ STANFORD	20-34
S.20	@ WAKE FOREST	11-25
S.27	@ YALE	
O.4	Ball State	14-40
O.11	Rice	
O.18	@ KENT STATE	
N.1	Air Force	28-42
N.15	@ WESTERN KENTUCKY	17-21
N.22	Fordham	
D.13	Navy*	7-34

* At Baltimore

COACH
Jeff Monken
First year
Career record: 38-16

Offensive coordinator: Brent Davis (first year)
Defensive coordinator: Jay Bateman (first year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 3-9
Stadium: Michie Stadium (38,000)
Tickets: 877-TIX-ARMY
Site: West Point, N.Y.
Website: goarmysports.com
Twitter: @Army_Football

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Angel Santiago (5-11, 188, Sr.)
FB	Larry Dixon (6-0, 238, Sr.)
RB	Terry Baggett (6-1, 200, Sr.)
RB	Trenton Turrentine (5-9, 206, Sr.)
LT	Todd McDonald (5-11, 239, Sr.)
LG	Steve Shumaker (6-0, 264, Sr.)
C	Ryan Powis (6-0, 248, Sr.)
RG	Matt Hugenberg (6-3, 285, Jr.)
RT	Justin Gilbert (6-3, 265, Jr.)
WR	Xavier Moss (6-2, 175, So.)
WR	Chevaughn Lawrence (6-3, 195, Sr.)

Defense

LE	Robert Kough (6-3, 239, Sr.)
NG	T.J. Atimala (5-11, 260, Jr.)
RE	Mike Ugenyi (6-2, 257, Sr.)
OLB	Julian Holloway (6-2, 197, Sr.)
ILB	James Kelly (6-3, 220, Sr.)
ILB	Marcus Poling (5-11, 185, Jr.)
OLB	Joe Drummond (6-3, 228, Sr.)
CB	Josh Jenkins (6-0, 175, So.)
CB	Chris Carnegie (6-0, 180, Jr.)
S	Hayden Pierce (6-3, 187, Sr.)
S	Geoffery Bacon (6-0, 207, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Daniel Grochowski (6-2, 205, Jr.)
P	Alex Tardieu (6-4, 190, So.)

Sporting News All-American

CHARLOTTE
49ERS

Charlotte's inaugural football season last year can be judged from two perspectives. On one hand, 5-6 is a good showing for a first-year program with inexperienced players. On the other hand, the 49ers will be moving to Conference USA in the FBS in 2015 and last year's schedule consisted almost exclusively of FCS opponents, with the exceptions being Division 2 Chowan and UNC Pembroke and Division 3 Wesley. With a nearly identical schedule this season, a similar record will not bode well for Charlotte's FBS transition.

The 49ers got major production out of their offense last year, and 2014 shouldn't be any different. Quarterback Matt Johnson returns for his sophomore campaign after passing for 2,581 yards and 21 touchdowns as a redshirt freshman. Two of his top three receivers are also back, including Austin Duke, who had 62 catches for 727 yards and six scores. Sophomores Kalif Phillips and Alan Barnwell and junior Damarrell Alexander return at running back having combined for 1,721 yards and 18 touchdowns last year.

Defensively, Charlotte lost its top two tacklers in safety Martay Mattox (kicked off the squad in March for violating team rules) and graduated linebacker Mark Hogan. Five defensive starters return, including the entire defensive line. Sophomore nose tackle Larry Ogunjobi leads the unit after posting 9.5 tackles for loss and three sacks a year ago. The 49ers also return their leading pass defender, cornerback Terrance Winchester, who had three interceptions and six pass breakups in 2013.

BOTTOM LINE: The 49ers are still astonishingly young, but the key players back should all be noticeably improved. Coach Brad Lambert's squad ought to produce a winning record that should give it some momentum heading into the FBS debut in 2015.

–Michael Gentry

2014 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	2013 RESULT
A.28	@ CAMPBELL	52-7
S.6	Johnson C. Smith	
S.13	@ N.C. CENTRAL	13-40
S.20	@ ELON	
S.27	Charleston Southern	
O.4	@ GARDNER-WEBB	53-51
O.11	@ CITADEL	
O.25	James Madison	7-34
N.8	Coastal Carolina	25-50
N.15	Wesley	28-35
N.22	Morehead State	61-17

COACH
Brad Lambert
Second year (5-6)
Career record: 5-6

Offensive coordinator: Jeff Mullen (second year)
Defensive coordinator: Bruce Tall (second year)

FAST FACTS
2013 RECORD: 5-6
Stadium: Jerry Richardson Stadium (15,314)
Tickets: 704-687-4949
Site: Charlotte, N.C.
Website: charlotte49ers.com
Twitter: @Charlotte49ers

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense

QB	Matt Johnson (6-3, 230, So.)
RB	Kalif Phillips (5-11, 185, So.)
HB	Justin Bolus (6-3, 215, So.)
LT	Jamal Covington (6-4, 295, So.)
LG	Casey Perry (6-2, 335, So.)
C	Thomas La Bianca (6-3, 295, So.)
RG	Daniel Blitch (6-6, 320, Sr.)
RT	Danny Book (6-6, 275, Jr.)
WR	Austin Duke (5-9, 152, So.)
WR	Dmarjai Devine (6-3, 210, Sr.)
WR	Trent Bostick (6-1, 195, So.)

Defense

DE	Brandon Banks (6-2, 270, So.)
NT	Larry Ogunjobi (6-2, 275, So.)
DE	James Middleton (6-4, 265, So.)
OLB	Nico Alcalde (6-2, 205, So.)
ILB	Nick Cook (6-2, 215, Jr.)
ILB	Caleb Clayton-Molby (6-2, 240, Sr.)
OLB	Daquan Lucas (5-10, 200, So.)
CB	Devin Pearson (5-11, 185, So.)
CB	Terrance Winchester (6-0, 170, So.)
SS	Ardy Holmes (5-9, 190, Jr.)
FS	Desmond Cooper (6-2, 210, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Blake Brewer (6-1, 200, Fr.)
P	Arthur Hart (6-3, 195, Fr.)

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NCAA DIVISION I FCS

2014 OVERVIEW

TOP 25

1	Eastern Washington
2	North Dakota State
3	Southeastern Louisiana
4	Jacksonville State
5	Villanova
6	Coastal Carolina
7	New Hampshire
8	Fordham
9	McNeese State
10	Montana
11	Northern Iowa
12	Richmond
13	Tennessee State
14	Chattanooga
15	Towson
16	Sam Houston State
17	Liberty
18	Montana State
19	South Dakota State
20	Northern Arizona
21	Bethune-Cookman
22	Eastern Illinois
23	William & Mary
24	Southern Utah
25	Furman

FCS ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Offense

QB	Vernon Adams (6-0, 190, Jr.) Eastern Washington
RB	Zach Zenner (6-0, 220, Sr.) South Dakota State
RB	DaMarcus James (5-10, 220, Sr.) Jacksonville State
OL	Collin Seibert (6-4, 277, Sr.) Eastern Illinois
OL	Robert Booker (6-3, 315, Jr.) Missouri State
OL	Max Holcombe (6-3, 290, Sr.) Jacksonville State
OL	Mason Halter (6-6, 282, Sr.) Fordham
OL	Cole Caruthers (6-4, 282, Sr.) Central Arkansas
TE	MyCole Pruitt (6-3, 250, Sr.) Southern Illinois
WR	Cooper Kupp (6-2, 195, So.) Eastern Washington
WR	Sam Ajala (6-0, 194, Sr.) Fordham

Defense

DL	Shaquille Riddick (6-7, 240, Sr.) Gardner-Webb
DL	Zach Hodges (6-3, 235, Sr.) Harvard
DL	Davis Tull (6-3, 240, Sr.) Chattanooga
DL	Zack Wagenmann (6-3, 250, Sr.) Montana
LB	Lynden Trail (6-7, 260, Sr.) Norfolk State
LB	Quinn Backus (5-10, 215, Sr.) Coastal Carolina
LB	Tony Bell (6-1, 200, Sr.) Tennessee-Martin
DB	Caleb Schaffitzel (6-0, 214, Sr.) Missouri State
DB	Daniel Fitzpatrick (6-2, 210, Sr.) Tennessee State
DB	Tye Smith (6-0, 170, Sr.) Towson
DB	Colten Heagle (5-11, 202, Sr.) North Dakota State

Specialists

K	Anthony Prevost (5-6, 160, So.) Hampton
P	Kyle Loomis (6-2, 210, Sr.) Portland State
RS	Xavier Roberson (5-9, 170, Jr.) Southeastern Louisiana

North Dakota State celebrates its victory over Towson in the 2013 FCS Championship Game.

Slowing the stampede

Can the NDSU Bison make it a record four straight FCS titles? Not so fast, says loaded Eastern Washington.

BY WILL LONG | *Assistant Editor*

Surely North Dakota State can't win four consecutive national championships, can they? In the famous words of Lee Corso, "Not so fast my friend." Despite losing 24 seniors, including the all-time FCS wins leader (48) in quarterback Brock Jensen, plus coach Craig Bohl (to Wyoming), NDSU should be right in the mix.

The Bison are in rare company, joining Appalachian State as the only FCS programs to win three straight titles. But with the senior exodus, several contenders are ready to knock North Dakota State from its perch atop the FCS football world.

Big Sky member Eastern Washington may prove to be the biggest threat as it returns several key playmakers from an explosive offense that averaged 39.5 points per game. The Eagles, led by *Sporting News* preseason All-America quarterback Vernon Adams, were the last team to win a national title (2010) before North Dakota State's run. Montana and Montana State will challenge for the conference title as well.

Ohio Valley Conference member Jacksonville State and Southland stalwarts Southeastern Louisiana and McNeese State are poised to have big seasons as well. And North Dakota State, which currently owns an FCS-record 24-game winning streak, will have a tight battle in the Missouri Valley with Northern Iowa looking to bounce back and South Dakota State ready to take the next step.

The Colonial Athletic Association will remain one of the nation's top leagues, with Villanova, New Hampshire and Richmond among the best. And despite losing running back Terrance West to the NFL a year early, expect Towson, last season's surprise national runner-up, to remain a force in the CAA.

All FCS programs are allowed to play up to 12 games during the regular season this year. This will be the final time FCS teams can play a 12-game schedule until 2019.

Realignment has shifted the FCS world again in 2014. Here are the conference changes for the upcoming season:

- *Appalachian State and Georgia Southern leave the Southern Conference for FBS and the Sun Belt.*
- *Elon leaves the Southern Conference and joins the Colonial Athletic Association.*
- *Mercer and VMI join the Southern Conference. The Bears leave the Pioneer League while the Keydets depart the Big South.*
- *Abilene Christian, Incarnate Word and Houston Baptist join the Southland Conference, all from the independent ranks.*
- *Monmouth joins the Big South Conference, also as a former independent team.*
- *Old Dominion jumps up to the FBS as a member of Conference USA.*

Changes will also be on the horizon for the 2015 season. East Tennessee State, which is starting football again after cutting the sport after the 2003 season, will join the Southern Conference. Kennesaw State, which has never fielded a team, will join the Big South for its first year of football. And Charlotte, after a brief two-year run in FCS, will join Conference USA after playing as an independent since beginning its football program in 2013.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense	**Vernon Adams,** QB, Eastern Washington
Defense	**Quinn Backus,** LB, Coastal Carolina
Newcomer	**Vad Lee,** QB, James Madison

NORTH DAKOTA STATE: TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Sky is the limit for high-flying EWU Eagles

BY MIKE SORENSON
The Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

For the first time in history, four Big Sky teams made it to the FCS playoffs last year, led by league champion Eastern Washington, which advanced to the semifinals for the second straight season.

Of course, it helped that the playoffs were expanded from 20 to 24 teams, but it was still a milestone for Montana, Northern Arizona and Southern Utah to join the Eagles in the postseason and give the Big Sky more playoff teams than any other FCS conference.

This year the top of the conference should be strong again and, with the rest of the league improving, it will be more challenging than ever to secure one of those coveted FCS playoff berths.

With three league titles in four years, **Eastern Washington** (12-3, 8-0 Big Sky in 2013) has supplanted Montana as the top program in the Big Sky. In addition to the two straight semifinal appearances, the Eagles also won the FCS championship in 2010 under coach Beau Baldwin.

The Eagles return their main offensive weapons, including junior quarterback Vernon Adams, who set several Big Sky passing records last year while finishing second for the Walter Payton Award. He finished six yards shy of 5,000 yards with 55 touchdowns passes. Also back is his top receiver, Cooper Kupp, who won the Jerry Rice Award as the nation's top freshman after catching 93 passes for 1,691 yards and 21 touchdowns.

On defense, linebacker Ronnie Hamlin, the third-leading tackler in EWU history, returns after being granted a medical hardship for a sixth season after sitting out two years with a knee injury.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Eastern Washington
2. Montana
3. Montana State
4. Northern Arizona
5. Southern Utah
6. Sacramento State
7. Cal Poly
8. UC Davis
9. Portland State
10. Weber State
11. Idaho State
12. North Dakota
13. Northern Colorado

Winners of 12 straight Big Sky championships from 1998 to 2009, **Montana** (10-3, 6-2) is getting back on track following its first losing season in 27 years in 2012. In 6-3, 250-pound Zack Wagenmann, the Grizzlies have a two-time all-league defensive end who was third in the league in sacks last year. Senior quarterback Jordan Johnson, who threw 32 touchdown passes to go with only five interceptions, returns along with junior Ellis Henderson, a second-team all-league receiver and return specialist.

Montana State (7-5, 5-3) lost its final three games last season and missed the playoffs for the first time in four years. The Bobcats must replace four-year starting quarterback DeNarius McGhee, but have talent in all-league running back Shawn Johnson, who rushed for 609 yards in 2013, and Deonte Flowers, a second-team all-league cornerback.

Northern Arizona (9-3, 7-1) coach Jerome Souers, who begins his 17th season in Flagstaff, is coming off his finest year and the Lumberjacks' first playoff appearance in 10 seasons. Quarterback Kyren Poe is back, along with first-team All-Big Sky tight end R.J. Rickert and linebacker Austin Hasquet, NAU's leading tackler in 2013.

Coming off one of its most successful seasons in history, **Southern Utah** (8-5, 5-3) returns seven starters from its strong defense, led by second-team all-league lineman James Cowser, who ranked second in the Sky with 10.5 sacks last year. Aaron Cantu threw for 2,052 yards and 10 touchdowns last year after arriving from the California junior-college ranks, but he'll be challenged by BYU transfer Ammon Olsen.

Vernon Adams

Worth Watching

Eastern Washington will play Sam Houston State Aug. 23, a week before anyone else in college football plays, in a nationally televised game on ESPN.

Sacramento State (5-7, 4-4) could be the league dark horse with 18 returning starters, including all 11 on offense. Garrett Safron, a second-team all-league quarterback who threw for 3,289 yards and 27 touchdowns last year, and receiver DeAndre Carter, who caught 14 TD passes for 934 yards, lead the offense, while end Darnell Sankey anchors the defense.

Last season, **Cal Poly** (6-6, 5-3) became the first Big Sky team in 32 years to lead the nation in rushing with a 309.2-yard average. The Mustangs were led by returning senior back Kristaan Ivory, who rushed for 1,113 yards. With eight offensive and seven defensive starters back, Cal Poly should improve on last year's conference record.

UC Davis (5-7, 5-3) running back Gabe Manzanares is the league's top returning rusher (1,285 yards, 10 touchdowns) and was the Big Sky Newcomer of the Year in 2013. On defense, last year's top two tacklers are back in safety Charles Boyett and linebacker Steven Pitts. Another key returnee is placekicker Brady Stuart, who made 17 of 25 field goals last season.

Portland State (6-6, 3-5) led the Big Sky and was third in the nation in total offense by producing 540.5 yards per game in 2013. Quarterback Kieran McDonagh, who passed for 1,936 yards and was the team's second-leading rusher (369 yards), is back along with top receiver Kasey Closs (63 catches, 1,167 yards). The Vikings have an All-America punter in Kyle Loomis (46.5-yard average).

Weber State (2-10, 1-7) is hoping former University of Utah assistant Jay Hill can turn around the program like ex-Utah head coach Ron McBride did in 2005 when led the Wildcats to four winning seasons and a Big Sky title from 2005-11. Coming off consecutive two-win campaigns, Weber will count on running back Bo Bolen, the team's leading rusher and second-leading receiver last year.

With three wins last season, **Idaho State** (3-9, 1-7) posted its best win total since 2007, but it will be tough to move up the standings this year. Quarterback Justin Arias, who set a Big Sky record for pass attempts in 2013 (574), is back and will try to improve his 56.1 completion percentage.

Bubba Schweigert takes over as coach at **North Dakota**, which returns only 10 starters from a 3-8 team (2-6 in Big Sky). Upon his arrival in Grand Forks, he saw perhaps his best returning player, receiver Kenny Golladay, transfer. Schweigert will have to choose between Joe Mollberg and Ryan Bartels, who shared time at quarterback last year.

Northern Colorado (1-11, 0-8) will try to rebound from a one-win 2013 campaign behind quarterback Brock Berglund, a highly touted high school quarterback who signed with Kansas and played at North Texas before landing with the Bears.

TOP PLAYERS **OFFENSE** • **Vernon Adams**, Jr., QB, Eastern Washington **DEFENSE** • **Zack Wagenmann**, Sr., DE, Montana **NEWCOMER** • **Bryson Keeton**, Jr., CB, Montana State

ADAMS: MICHAEL ALBANS / AP

BIG SOUTH

bigsouthsports.com

Look for Chants to again be cock of the walk in 6-team Big South

BY CHRIS LANG
Lynchburg (Va.) News & Advance

Coastal Carolina has always been the trendsetter among Big South football teams. It earned the conference's first FCS playoff bid in 2006 and, last season, went further than any team in the league's short history, advancing to the national quarterfinals before falling at three-time defending champion North Dakota State.

In a league craving stability, the Chanticleers should again be the favorites. The Big South lost perennial bottom-feeder VMI to the Southern Conference and replaced it with Monmouth, a former Northeast Conference team that joins as an associate member.

In 2015, startup program Kennesaw State will join. Liberty, another of the Big South's original members, could be gone by then. The Flames have openly courted the FBS Sun Belt Conference and remain a candidate as that league explores moving to 12 teams in hopes of hosting a conference championship game.

TD Ameritrade Chairman Joe Moglia enters his third season at **Coastal Carolina** (12-3, 4-1 Big South in 2013), where he hopes to lead the Chanticleers to an unprecedented third straight playoff berth. He'll have to replace top tailback Lorenzo Taliaferro, the Big South's Offensive Player of the Year who rushed for 1,729 yards and 27 touchdowns, and top receiver Matt Hazel, along with two all-conference offensive linemen. But he can lean on steady quarterback Alex Ross, who proved to be much more than just a game manager last season, especially in the second-round FCS playoff win at frigid Montana where he threw three touchdowns. Redshirt freshman receiver Chris Jones could make an impact.

Alex Ross

Worth Watching

The conference moved the league's top rivalry game—Liberty vs. Coastal Carolina—to the season's final weekend. One of the two has claimed at least a share of the championship in nine of the Big South's 12 seasons.

Two-time Big South Defensive Player of the Year Quinn Backus returns to anchor the Chanticleers' defense, which was shaky at times but buckled down when necessary. Backus racked up a team-best 144 tackles and intercepted four passes.

Liberty (8-4, 4-1) returns nearly everyone on offense, including quarterback Josh Woodrum, who threw 19 touchdowns; running back Desmond Rice, who rushed for 967 yards; and receivers Darrin Peterson, Gabe Henderson and Dante Shells, who combined for 1,898 receiving yards. The Flames' bigger question marks are on the defensive line, where interior starters Cory Freeman and Francis Bah depart, and at cornerback, where they lose likely NFL draft pick Walt Aikens and Kevin Fogg. Safety Jacob Hagen, who intercepted a league-high six passes, and linebacker Nick Sigmon will head up the defense.

Liberty must find a way to close games. The Flames led by 10 in the final five minutes in a loss at Old Dominion, led in the fourth quarter in a loss at Kent State and blew a 19-point lead in a double-overtime loss to Coastal Carolina that ultimately cost them a playoff berth.

Charleston Southern (10-3, 3-2) was the feel-good story of the conference, if not all of FCS, last season. Just two years removed from a winless season, CSU was in the hunt for its first playoff berth until the season's final week. The Buccaneers' humbling 56-14 home loss to Liberty with the playoffs on the line showed that there's more work to do.

But things are happening on campus. Two years after opening a new field house, CSU added lights to its stadium, and the Bucs will host night games for the first time in program history. The Bucs return tailback Christian Reyes to spearhead second-year head coach Jamey Chadwell's spread option attack. Reyes ran for a program-record 1,254 yards and did so behind a young offensive line that returns mostly intact in 2014. Danny Croghan III, Kyle Copeland and UAB transfer Austin Brown will all battle for time at quarterback. The Bucs' schedule is much tougher, featuring trips to both Coastal Carolina and Liberty.

Gardner-Webb (7-5, 2-3) alum Carroll McCray stabilized a program in disarray in his first season. The Runnin' Bulldogs beat Furman, Wofford and Charleston Southern and established an identity as a power-run team behind Juanne Blount, who rushed for 1,040 yards and nine touchdowns. He'll get help from dynamic freshman Khalil Lewis. Defensively, NFL scouts are salivating over end Shaquille Riddick, who led the Big South in sacks (8.5) and tackles for loss (19). The Bulldogs need more consistency from quarterback Lucas Beatty, who threw 12 touchdowns and 13 interceptions last year, if they are to make a move up the conference standings.

Monmouth (6-6) got a small taste of what to expect in its new conference last season when it lost 45-15 at Liberty in September. The Hawks, who are making the transition to full-scholarship football, will operate at 50 scholarships this season and the full 63 in 2015. Kevin Callahan, the only coach in the program's 21-year history, will count on big receiver Neal Sterling (647 receiving yards) and running back K.B. Asante (1,080 rushing yards) to anchor an offense that averaged 25.2 points per game. But Monmouth lost half of its 1-2 backfield punch when 1,111-yard rusher Julian Hayes was dismissed from the team in December for a violation of team rules. Defensively, lineman Darnell Leslie burst onto the scene as a freshman and finished with 7.5 sacks and 13 tackles for loss.

Presbyterian (3-8, 1-4) found an answer at quarterback by the end of last season in true freshman Heys McMath, who was pressed into action midway through the season and breathed life into a dormant offense with 12 total touchdowns in six games. Heading into his sixth season, PC alum Harold Nichols is 11-44, with just seven of those victories coming against Division 1 competition. The Blue Hose at least improved defensively last season. After allowing 501.1 yards per game in 2012, they allowed 425.6 yards per game, a trend that needs to continue if PC is going to be competitive in the conference.

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Coastal Carolina
2. Liberty
3. Charleston Southern
4. Gardner-Webb
5. Monmouth
6. Presbyterian

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE • **Alex Ross**, Jr., QB, Coastal Carolina

DEFENSE • **Quinn Backus**, Sr., LB, Coastal Carolina

NEWCOMER • **Austin Brown**, Jr., QB, Charleston Southern

ROSS: STEPHEN MORTON / AP

Stability sets elite apart from always-deep CAA crowd

BY JOHN O'CONNOR
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Four of the Colonial Athletic Association's 12 head coaches are new this season. That can make handicapping the league tricky. None of the new coaches, however, leads a team expected to challenge for the conference championship.

The favorite is Villanova, which returns 15 starters. Among them is quarterback John Robertson, a dynamic runner and passer who is in his third year as a starter. Also capable of contention is Richmond, which returns 17 starters.

It doesn't seem to matter what New Hampshire has returning. They've been to the FCS playoffs in 10 consecutive years.

Defending league champion Maine, Towson and New Hampshire went to the 2013 FCS playoffs. At least three teams are expected to return to the postseason field this year in what is arguably the division's toughest conference.

When it comes to moving a team with his arm and his legs, **Villanova** (6-5, 5-3 CAA in 2013) junior QB John Robertson has no peer in the league—he passed for 1,957 yards and ran for 1,405 last season. The Wildcats will lean on him, and hope newcomers in the secondary can slow down opponents.

Running back Kevin Monangai is back, as is standout linebacker Don Cherry. Can Villanova be consistent? Last season, the Wildcats competed well at Boston College (24-14 loss), and then lost at Fordham the following week.

New Hampshire (10-5, 6-2), as usual, is in the mix of league title contenders. Coach Sean McDonnell gets it done with a gambling defense that is annually near the top of the league in turnovers caused, and an eclectic offense.

Senior R.J. Harris is among the league's top wideouts after averaging 83.7 receiving yards as a junior. Senior Nico Steriti is among the CAA's top backs after averaging 68.5 rushing yards. The Wildcats seem stable at quarterback with junior Sean Goldrich.

The Wildcats won nine of their last 11 games last season on the way to the FCS semifinals.

Injuries and narrow defeats conspired to doom **Richmond** (6-6, 4-4) to a 2-6 start last season. The Spiders closed with four straight wins and appear ready for a much brighter campaign in 2014.

Quarterback Michael Strauss returns for his senior season having passed for league highs of 3,808 yards and 26 TDs last year. The Virginia transfer gets competition from another former Cavalier, Michael Rocco, the nephew of Richmond coach Danny Rocco.

Richmond's best playmaker is senior receiver Stephen Barnette, who led the CAA with of 99.1 receiving yards per game in 2013.

Linebacker Aaron Roane and tackle Evan Kelly lead a deep defense.

Towson (13-3, 6-2) lost many of the regulars who helped it get to last year's national championship game (a 35-7 loss to North Dakota State).

The Tigers return only one starter on the offensive line and are also without Terrance West, the 2013 CAA Offensive Player of the Year who rushed for 2,509 yards and 41 touchdowns. Following his junior season, West left for the NFL.

Towson will rely on a ground game with tailback Darius Victor, who is the reigning CAA Offensive Rookie of the Year, and Rutgers transfer Dontea Ayres.

William & Mary (7-5, 4-4) is likely to remain the league's finest defensive team. Its average of 14 points allowed per game last season ranked second nationally.

Several of that unit's top players return in lineman Mike Reilly, linebackers Luke Rhodes and Airek Green and cornerback DeAndre Houston-Carson. Quarterback ability is a question, but the Tribe bring back Tre McBride, a standout receiver who was also the CAA's leading kickoff-return man.

James Madison (6-6, 3-5) typically has fielded the most athletic team in the league. But blending that talent into a big winner was sometimes an issue for Mickey Matthews, JMU's coach for the last 15 years. He was asked to leave.

Everett Withers, the co-defensive coordinator at Ohio State the last two years, was hired to succeed Matthews. While a North Carolina assistant, Withers recruited Vad Lee, who became Georgia Tech's option QB and has transferrred to JMU. Look for the Dukes to try to get the ball into Lee's hands as much as possible.

Delaware (7-5, 4-4) was 7-2 and looking at a playoff spot last November. One more victory would have probably meant FCS playoff qualification. The Blue Hens dropped their last three, extending the well-regarded program's playoff-less streak to three years. Michael Johnson is one of the top receivers in the league and is also a kickoff-return standout. Quarterback Trent Hurley is back after leading the league in passing efficiency last season.

Last season, **Stony Brook** (5-6, 3-5) was expected to be among the league leaders thanks to running back Marcus Coker, who rushed for more than 2,000 yards and 18 touchdowns in two seasons at Iowa. However, he suffered an early-season injury and was shut down. The Seawolves succeeded in the Big South by pounding opponents with their running game and may take that approach again with a healthy Coker.

The depth of the CAA is illustrated by **Maine**'s (10-3, 7-1) situation. It won the 2013 league championship in coach Jack Cosgrove's 21st year, but will be challenged to finish in the conference's top half this season. Maine loses passing/running threat Marcus Wasilewski, the league's first-team quarterback. Cosgrove often has done his best work with under-the-radar teams. This is one of them.

Rhode Island (3-9, 2-6) hopes new coach Jim Fleming, the former defensive coordinator at UCF and, most recently, head coach at Sacred Heart, can lift a program that has struggled for years to make a mark in the CAA. He'll be looking for lots of new help on defense. The Rams do have Mack Lowrie, a quarterback transfer from Boston College, among a large group of newcomers.

Only a few years ago, **Elon** (2-10, 1-7 Southern Conference) was highly potent on offense and regularly in the mix for the FCS playoffs. The Phoenix have descended since. Elon moves into the CAA with new coach Rich Skrosky, who was the program's offensive coordinator during some of its best seasons. He must first shape up a defense that allowed 32.7 points and 468.5 yards per game.

For the first time since 1969, **Albany** (1-11, 0-8) will take the field without coach Bob Ford, who retired. New coach Greg Gattuso came from the Maryland staff and is the former head coach at Duquesne. Gattuso has a 1,200-yard rusher in senior Omar Osbourne. The Great Danes moved up from the Northeast Conference last season and went winless in their first Colonial campaign.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1 Villanova
2 New Hampshire
3 Richmond
4 Towson
5 William & Mary
6 James Madison
7 Delaware
8 Stony Brook
9 Maine
10 Rhode Island
11 Elon
12 Albany

John Robertson

Worth Watching

How will James Madison use versatile transfer quarterback Vad Lee? Lee transferred from Georgia Tech, where he passed for 1,561 yards and ran for 513 as a sophomore last season.

TOP PLAYERS **OFFENSE** • John Robertson, Jr., QB, Villanova **DEFENSE** • Tye Smith, Sr., DB, Towson **NEWCOMER** • Vad Lee, Jr., QB, James Madison

ROBERTSON: MARY SCHWALM / AP

Princeton shaping up to repeat as champs in typically tight Ivy League

BY ANDY JASNER
SN Correspondent

It has been quite some time since the Ivy League looked this balanced heading into a season. Princeton and Harvard shared the title in 2013 and that wasn't determined until the final week of the season. The Tigers and Crimson look strong once again and will be joined by a Penn team looking to regain its winning ways. Yale, Brown and Dartmouth all should be much improved as well, making for a very interesting battle in the Ancient Eight.

Bringing home the trophy in consecutive seasons is difficult enough, but it will be even harder with the balance up and down the league. The champion will likely to be crowned in the last week of the season again.

Princeton (8-2, 6-1) shared its 10th Ivy League title last season, though it came in a 28-24 loss at Dartmouth. The Tigers rallied from a 21-0 deficit but fell just short of their first perfect Ivy League season since 1964. The Tigers have a plethora of talent returning coupled with a strong recruiting class. The talent looks to be good enough to help them capture an outright title this year.

Princeton will be led by senior quarterback Quinn Epperly, who last year became the first Ivy player to compile 40 or more total touchdowns in a season. Epperly tied the program's single-season record of 25 touchdown passes set by Doug Butler in 1983 and moved within one score of tying the single-season rushing TD mark of 19 set by Keith Elias in '93.

Epperly also set an NCAA record with 29 straight completions in Princeton's 53-20 victory over Cornell, and an Ivy League record by earning Offensive Player-of-the-Week honors six times, including five in a row. He will set the tone on offense and he has the ability and leadership skills to carry the Tigers to another title.

Quinn Epperly

Worth Watching

Keep a close eye on Princeton senior quarterback Quinn Epperly. He set numerous program and NCAA records last season. If he can repeat his individual success it will go a long way in helping the Tigers win another Ivy title.

Princeton's defense looks to be solid across the board once again. Senior Mike Zeuli moved from safety to linebacker before last season and had a dominant season. With some key players graduating, Zeuli will certainly be expected to fill a larger role.

Penn (4-6, 3-4), the 16-time Ivy champ, stumbled a bit last season. Multiple injuries led to problems with depth. Look for the Quakers to come back strong this year, however, behind senior linebacker Dan Davis, a first-team All-Ivy pick last season who posted a career-high 64 tackles and team-leading 10.5 tackles for loss.

Senior running back Kyle Wilcox is back to lead the Quakers' offense after rushing for 493 yards (4.8 per carry) and making 11 catches to go with four touchdowns last season.

Harvard (9-1, 6-1) captured its 15th league title last year and its sixth nine-win campaign under coach Tim Murphy. Harvard's 34-7 victory over rival Yale in the last game of the season gave the program a share of the Ivy title and its 250th league victory. Harvard is the first team in the league to reach that milestone win.

Senior cornerback Norman Hayes, who was named the 141st captain of Harvard football for this season, will team with senior end Zach Hodges to solidify a stingy defensive unit. Hodges, already fifth in school history with 17.5 career sacks, finished his junior campaign with 40 tackles and ranked second in the Ivy with 11.5 tackles for a loss. He also ranked sixth in the country with four forced fumbles.

Yale (5-5, 3-4) was surprisingly good at 3-2 in the conference before dropping its final two games. If the Bulldogs are going to make a run this season, they'll have to depend on wide receiver and team captain Deon Randall. A two-time All-Ivy pick, Randall ranks third in career receptions (146) at Yale, eighth in touchdown catches (11) and ninth in yards (1,391). He had 85 catches last season, one short of the program record set by Eric Johnson in 2000.

Brown (6-4) finished a respectable 3-4 in the league, culminating with a 48-7 victory over Columbia. The victory gave the Bears their sixth consecutive winning season. They were a senior-laden team last season, however, and lost a ton of players on offense and defense. Senior linebacker Daniel Giovacchini began to shine late in his junior season and should receive an expanded role this year.

Dartmouth (6-4, 5-2), like Brown, lost a number of important seniors, including last year's leading rusher, Dominick Pierre. Scotty Whitmore will return to anchor the offensive line in front of junior quarterback Dalyn Williams, who finished with 1,773 passing yards and 563 rushing yards, the fourth-most total yards in a single season in the program's history.

Cornell (3-7, 2-5) named Roy Istvan as the program's new offensive coordinator. Istvan will join coach David Archer as they attempt to elevate the program. Junior running back Luke Hagy will be one of the cornerstones on offense while sophomore linebacker Miles Norris is one of the league's best young players. Norris had six tackles, 2.5 for loss, and a blocked punt in the Big Red's wild 42-41 season-ending victory over Penn last season.

Columbia (0-10, 0-7) won't be much better than last year's winless group of Lions. Depth is lacking and the rest of the league has improved. It's likely to be a rough road again for a team that will be led by junior defensive end Niko Padilla, who had a team-best 9.5 tackles for loss last season.

THE IVY LEAGUE

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1 Princeton
2 Penn
3 Harvard
4 Yale
5 Brown
6 Dartmouth
7 Cornell
8 Columbia

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE • **Quinn Epperly**, Sr., QB, Princeton

DEFENSE • **Zach Hodges**, Sr., DL, Harvard

NEWCOMER • **Richard Bush**, Fr., OG, Princeton

EPPERLY: GREGORY PAYAN / AP

MEAC looking for first playoff win since 1999

BY LUT WILLIAMS
Black College Sports Page

No matter how dominant a MEAC champion has been in conference play, FCS playoff success has been nonexistent for the last 14 years.

With playoff losses by co-champions Bethune-Cookman and South Carolina State last season, the conference losing streak has now reached 18 games dating back to Florida A&M's 17-10 win over Troy in the then Division 1-AA quarterfinals in 1999.

There have been many close calls, but that's not enough for the MEAC head coaches, who are frustrated by the perception that the league is not competitive nationally.

This proud conference, which has delivered numerous upsets in the NCAA basketball tournament, needs a playoff win to justify its place in the FCS postseason.

Bethune-Cookman (10-3, 7-1 MEAC) lost seven all-conference performers and a host of other key contributors from the team that won a share of its second straight MEAC title.

Last year's quarterback, Quentin Williams, led the league in passing efficiency but only threw for 105.8 yards per game. He may be challenged for the spot this season by promising redshirt freshman Larry Brihm. Running backs Anthony Jordan and Cary White and wide receivers Jontavious Carter and Jhomo Gordon will have increased workloads. Andrew Edouard is the centerpiece on the offensive line. Safety Marquis Drayton and linebackers Tavarus Dantzler and Rony Barrow lead the defense.

Defense spurred **South Carolina State** (9-4, 7-1) to a share of the 2013 MEAC title and will again be the Bulldogs' calling card. All-MEAC ends Alex Glover and Andrew Carter and tackle Javon Hargrave combined for 26 of the team's league-best 63 sacks and, along with safety Shaquan Brock, are the ringleaders of a gang-tackling defense.

Adrian Kollock leads a trio vying to replace two-year starter Richard Cue at quarterback. Jalen "Scoot" Simmons is back from injury to join a talented backfield. Jairon Harrison also returns from injury to aid All-MEAC first-teamer Domanic Wilson on the offensive line. Coach Buddy Pough is also seeking a replacement for all-conference placekicker Nick Belcher.

Delaware State (5-6, 5-3) returns nine starters on offense and eight on defense from a team that surprised everyone with its third-place finish last year. Esayah Obado replaces 2013 starter Cory Murphy at quarterback in a high-octane passing attack that features receivers Milton Williams III and Malik Golson. The Hornets also return their top three rushers in Dae-Hon Cheung, Malcolm Williams and Nagee Jackson.

End Rodney Gunter and linebackers Elbie Williams and Alex Perry lead the defense.

After a one-year leave of absence, Gary Harrell returns as coach at **Howard** (6-6, 4-4) with his eye on a conference title. Senior quarterback and reigning MEAC Player of the Year Greg McGhee and all-league second-team running back Anthony Philyaw are the key cogs on offense.

The defense is strong up front with Damon Gresham-Chisolm, Godspower Offor and Marquese Blanchard on the line and on the back end with safeties Cameron Alston and Julien David. Cornerback and linebacker are the big concerns.

Freshman running back Tarik Cohen (1,148 rushing yards, 8 TDs) was a breakout star at **North Carolina A&T** (7-4, 4-4) in 2013 and may have to be even better for the Aggies to contend in '14. Veteran backup Kwashaun Quick and juco transfer Frank Foster are the leading quarterback candidates. They can count on speedster Desmond Lawrence at receiver. All-MEAC tackle William Robinson anchors the offensive line.

The defense lost five of its top seven tacklers but gets back All-MEAC linebacker D'Vonte Grant, a fifth-year senior.

Morgan State (5-7, 5-3) chose former Maryland and Oregon State assistant Lee Hull to replace 12-year veteran coach Donald Hill-Eley. Hull inherits a trio of veteran signal-callers (Seth Higgins, Robert Council and Moses Skillon) and productive running back Lamont Brown (708 rushing yards, 5 TDs) on offense. The defense needs a lot of help.

Hampton (4-8, 4-4) lured successful Division 2 coach Connell Maynor from high-scoring Winston-Salem State, which he led to three straight deep runs in the D2 playoffs, including a championship game appearance in 2012. Maynor's frenetic style but cool hand should help develop quarterback Bryan Bailey, who threw for 1,131 yards and nine touchdowns as a freshman. The defense will be built around highly productive end Miles Grooms.

North Carolina Central (5-7, 3-5) hired a new coach in 33-year-old Jerry Mack. Mack, who has had stints as an offensive assistant at five different schools, will be the third-youngest head coach in Division 1 this year. It will be interesting to see how he utilizes Adrian Wilkins, an FCS All-America kick returner who also sees time at wide receiver. Junior-college transfer Quinn Billerman will battle holdovers Matt Goggans and Malcolm Bell for the quarterback spot.

Offensive struggles doomed **Norfolk State** (3-9, 3-5) to the bottom half of the standings last year, though the Spartans got their only win over league co-champ Bethune-Cookman. Coach Pete Adrian hopes he has found an offensive leader in touted freshman quarterback Terrance Ervin from L.C. Bird High in Chesterfield, Va. The 6-3 pocket passer led his team to back-to-back state titles and a 29-0 record over the last two seasons. He will have to beat out three vets for the job, however.

The struggles of 2013 preseason All-MEAC quarterback Damien Fleming mirrored those of his **Florida A&M** (3-9, 2-6) team. Coach Earl Holmes needs Fleming and his favorite target, Lenworth Lennon, to return to form.

The gap between **Savannah State** (1-11, 0-8) and other schools in the MEAC narrowed in the Tigers' first year under coach Earnest Wilson III. The Tigers had single-digit losses to Delaware State and Norfolk State, as well as hard-fought games against Florida A&M and North Carolina Central.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Bethune-Cookman
2. South Carolina State
3. Delaware State
4. Howard
5. North Carolina A&T
6. Morgan State
7. Hampton
8. North Carolina Central
9. Norfolk State
10. Florida A&M
11. Savannah State

Greg McGhee

Worth Watching

South Carolina State has won or shared four MEAC titles over the past six seasons while Bethune-Cookman has won or shared three. Their showdown is Oct. 25 in Orangeburg, S.C.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE • **Greg McGhee**, Sr., QB, Howard

DEFENSE • **Lynden Trail**, Sr., LB, Norfolk State

NEWCOMER • **Quinn Billerman**, Jr., QB, N.C. Central

MCGHEE: NICK WASS / AP

MISSOURI VALLEY

mvc-sports.com

Bison stampede likely to continue

BY RANDY REINHARDT
The Pantagraph (Bloomington, Ill.)

North Dakota State hasn't gone anywhere. And if the three-time defending FCS champion Bison do experience a drop, it does not figure to be a precipitous one.

Yet with the graduation of a star-studded senior class and the defection of former coach Craig Bohl to Wyoming, there is renewed hope around the Missouri Valley Football Conference that NDSU will be dethroned.

While the Bison steamrolled through the MVFC and all of FCS last season, new coach Chris Klieman will have to fend off charges from Northern Iowa and South Dakota State to stay atop the league.

North Dakota State must replace Brock Jensen, the winningest quarterback in FCS history. South Dakota State, with Austin Sumner under center, and Northern Iowa, with Sawyer Kollmorgen calling the signals, hope the experience advantage at the most critical position will elevate them over the stampeding Bison.

Promoted from **North Dakota State** (15-0, 8-0) defensive coordinator, Chris Klieman has Carson Wentz as the heir apparent to graduated all-everything QB Brock Jensen. The Bison running game should remain punishing behind John Crockett, Chase Morlock and Nebraska transfer King Frazier. Wide receiver Zach Vraa caught 15 touchdown passes last season and tight end Kevin Vaadeland has been granted a sixth year of eligibility.

The top scoring defense in FCS the past three years returns six starters, including end Kyle Emanuel, linebacker Travis Beck and safeties Colten Heagle and Christian Dudzik.

In all, the Bison welcome back 10 starters, but at least 10 more received significant playing time last season in a reserve role or while filling in for an injured teammate. The Herd will still be heard from.

Zach Zenner

Worth Watching

Zach Zenner, South Dakota State's 220-pound, yardage-eating running back, thrives on contact. Churning for that extra yard, Zenner has more than 2,000 of them on the ground each of the last two seasons and could become the first player in FCS history to make it three.

Northern Iowa (7-5, 3-5) could well have the MVFC's most dynamic offense behind quarterback Sawyer Kollmorgen, tailback David Johnson and a savvy line. Brett LeMaster is recovered from a knee injury that cost him the 2013 season and teams with Chad Owens and Kevin Vereen to form a fine unit of receivers.

Xavier Williams is a 311-pound menace on the defensive line who had 74 tackles and earned first-team All-MVFC status a year ago. Linebacker Jake Farley, the son of coach Mark Farley, averaged 11.2 tackles in five games before suffering a broken leg but is back as a defensive leader. The secondary should be stellar with Makinton Dorleant, Deiondre' Hall, Tate Omli and Ray Mitchell returning.

While the **South Dakota State** (9-5, 5-3) offense is spearheaded by record-breaking running back Zach Zenner, quarterback Austin Sumner and receiver Jason Schneider provide valuable balance. Sumner bumped his touchdown passes from 15 in 2012 to 19 last season and threw for 556 more yards and six fewer interceptions. Schneider hauled in 78 passes for 1,088 yards.

Linebacker T.J. Lally is the top returning tackler. Vacancies must be filled on both fronts but the Jackrabbits have the talent for a third straight FCS playoff bid.

Toting eight starters on offense and nine on defense, **Southern Illinois** (7-5, 5-3) has its sights set on cracking the Valley's formidable top three. The running game is stout with four seasoned linemen paving the way for tailback Malcolm Agnew. All-America tight end MyCole Pruitt is a big-time weapon. Ryan West and Eastern Michigan transfer Mark Ianotti will compete for the quarterback spot.

Salukis head coach Dale Lennon will take on the defensive-coordinator reins this year, and welcomes back his entire front and three in the secondary.

Part of a four-way tie at 5-3 in conference play last season, **Missouri State** (5-7, 5-3) also looks to continue its ascent. Caleb Schaffitzel is a game-altering free safety and partners with strong safety Mike Crutcher for a formidable backstop tandem. Andrew Beisel is among three returning linebackers.

The Bears need more consistency from the quarterback position and a bounce-back performance from tailback Ryan Heaston, but they boast an elite center in Robert Booker and a deep receiving group paced by Julian Burton.

Perfect at home and 0-6 away from Hancock Stadium last season, **Illinois State** (5-6, 4-4) strives for consistency behind a veteran offensive line and tailback Marshaun Coprich. Receiver Lechein Neblett is back from a knee injury after recording 88 catches in 2011-12. Incumbent quarterback Blake Winkler had flashes of both positive and negative as a redshirt freshman and must hold off challenges from junior Adam Pittser and highly touted incoming freshman Jake Kolbe to keep the job.

Tackle Bradon Prate, linebacker Pat Meehan and safety Dontae McCoy give the Redbird defense a top-flight player at each level. End David Perkins, a former Ohio State player, could be in for a breakout season in which ISU plays seven of 11 games at home.

Youngstown State (8-4, 5-3) must proceed without four-year starting quarterback Kurt Hess. Backup Dante Nania is part of the competition to replace Hess. Tailback Martin Ruiz was a revelation with a 1,000-yard rushing campaign as a freshman. Linebacker is a major source of concern after Teven Williams, the Penguins' leading tackler the past three seasons, was dismissed from the squad in March.

South Dakota (4-8, 3-5) is deep at tailback, with Trevor Bouma in front of the pack. Quarterback Kevin Earl needs to improve his 52.5 completion percentage with backup Ryan Saeger nipping at his heels. Linebackers Keyen Lage and Auston Johnson must pick up the slack with MVFC Defensive Player of the Year Tyler Starr gone.

Western Illinois (4-8, 2-6) has two talented tailbacks in J.C. Baker and Nikko Watson and looks for improvement from second-year quarterback Trenton Norvell. A defense spearheaded by linebackers J.J. Raffelson and Kevin Kintzel must continue to progress.

Coach Mike Sanford's first season at **Indiana State** did not go well as the injury-ravaged Sycamores went winless in Valley play and 1-11 overall. Running back Deionte Buckley and quarterback Patrick Coyne, two transfers from the Cincinnati Bearcats, could provide a much-needed lift.

THE VALLEY

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1 North Dakota State
2 Northern Iowa
3 South Dakota State
4 Southern Illinois
5 Missouri State
6 Illinois State
7 Youngstown State
8 South Dakota
9 Western Illinois
10 Indiana State

TOP PLAYERS OFFENSE ▸ Zach Zenner, Sr., RB, South Dakota State DEFENSE ▸ Caleb Schaffitzel, Sr., FS, Missouri State NEWCOMER ▸ Deionte Buckley, So., RB, Indiana State

ZENNER: SETH PERLMAN/AP

Gotta go with the Heart as Cinderella story continues

BY STEVE AMEDIO
SN Correspondent

When the University at Albany left the Northeast Conference after the 2012 season, the league was suddenly left without its "Big Dog," the program that had dominated league play for more than a decade.

It created an opening at the top, an opportunity for one of the seven remaining schools to grab top billing.

But, whoever expected that would be Sacred Heart? Who would have dared to predict that the Pioneers, 2-9 overall in 2012 and a combined 8-24 in NEC play over the previous four seasons, would be the conference's 2013 champion?

Yet, it was Sacred Heart, 1-7 in the NEC in 2012, that turned in a storybook worst-to-first finish in 2013, finishing 4-2 in league play and advancing to the FCS playoffs for the first time in program history.

"We decided to put 2012 behind us and not look back at it," SHC coach Mark Nofri recalls. "The kids did a great job of changing things, of changing the culture."

There's definitely a new top dog in the NEC, and it's the Pioneers.

Sacred Heart (10-3 overall, 4-2 in the NEC) actually tied with Duquesne for the NEC's top regular-season record in 2013, but the Pioneers should be dominant this season with 18 returning starters.

Back is the NEC's top offensive player, 5-10, 230-pound bowling ball of a running back Keshaudas Spence, who set a single-season school rushing record with 1,669 yards, fourth best nationally on the FCS level.

The league's top defensive player in 2013 was returning 6-3, 285-pound lineman Troy Moore, who recorded 8.5 sacks and 16.5 tackles for loss as the middle man on the line of a defense that limited opponents to 111.6 rushing yards per game, ninth best for FCS teams.

The most unexpected contribution, though, came from redshirt freshman quarterback R.J. Noel, who spent 2012 on the program's scout team. He won the starting job in training camp and finished as the league's top rookie, leading NEC signal-callers in wins (10) and touchdown passes (23) while throwing for 2,203 yards and rushing for 689 more. Also returning are first-team All-NEC picks Tyler Dube at wide receiver, Kellen Sperduto at linebacker and Gordon Hill in the secondary.

Duquesne (7-4, 4-2) matched the Pioneers for regular-season league wins, and should be SHC's main rival for the top spot again, based on a similarly strong returning cast. The program has been strong in recent years, having shared the NEC's top spot in two of the past three seasons.

The Dukes' redshirt freshman quarterback, Dillon Buechel, might have been the best pure thrower in the league last season, connecting on 217 of 373 attempts for 2,569 yards. Also, the team's pass-catching corps returns four of its top five receivers in Dave Thomas (49 catches, 592 yards), Devin Rahming (32, 395), Chris King (26, 311) and Noel Oduho (24, 238).

There's also plenty back on the defensive side, starting up front with massive 6-1, 315-pound noseguard Zach Zidian, who had four fumble recoveries in 2013. Behind him are returning first-team All-NEC linebacker Christian Kuntz (team-high 74 tackles) and second-team All-NEC defensive back Rich Piekarski, whose 70 tackles last year was third best on the team.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Sacred Heart
2. Duquesne
3. Robert Morris
4. Saint Francis (Pa.)
5. Central Connecticut State
6. Bryant
7. Wagner

Keshaudas Spence

Worth Watching

The top two teams from last season, Sacred Heart and Duquesne, look strong again. Sacred Heart has the NEC's top returnees on offense and defense, while the already-strong Dukes will be bolstered by two key transfers. Their Oct. 18 meeting should decide the NEC title.

There won't be a lot of transition at **Robert Morris** (5-6, 3-3), which should ensure that the Colonials remain competitive. John Banaszak, a former member of the Pittsburgh Steelers' famed "Steel Curtain," takes over as head coach from Joe Walton, who was at the school for 20 years and is the NEC's all-time winningest coach. Banaszak had been on Walton's staff for the past 11 seasons and was honored as the FCS Assistant Coach of the Year in 2013.

There will also be some significant pieces returning, including the biggest backfield tandem in the league. Senior quarterback Paul Jones (122-of-261 passing for 1,651 yards in 2013) stands 6-4 and 265 pounds and is as big as most linemen who pursue him. Fullback Ryan Thermil (61 carries, 279 yards) is 5-11 and 240 pounds. Jones' favorite target, wideout Duane Mitchell (57 catches), is also back.

There's also a good defensive nucleus in place with second-team All-NEC picks Forrest Mason on the line and Antwan Eddie in the secondary.

Saint Francis (Pa.) denied Robert Morris a chance at a tie for the regular-season crown with an upset victory in its season finale that completed a two-year run of five-win seasons for the first time since 1991-92. Now, the Red Flash (5-6, 3-3) have to see about maintaining.

One key will be the continued development of sophomore QB Max Ward (83-of-159 passing for 1,108 yards), who will probably air it out more this season with the graduation of running back Kyle Harbridge, whose 147.2 rushing yards per game led the NEC by nearly 19 yards per contest.

Defensively, the team is strong, particularly against the pass with reigning Defensive Rookie of the Year Lorenzo Jerome and DaQuan Minter in the secondary. Each had six interceptions last season.

Central Connecticut State (4-8, 2-4) has a new coach and plenty of solid returnees as it tries to creep up toward the top of the NEC standings. Former New Haven coach Pete Rossomando, the NCAA Division 2 Coach of the Year in 2012, takes over and tries to turn things around.

Top returnees include strong offensive performers in junior quarterback Nick SanGiacomo (157-for-275, 2,076 yards), senior running back Rob Holloman (1,452 rushing yards and 18 touchdowns), senior wide receiver Tyrell Holmes (42 catches) and second-team All-NEC lineman Blaise Rosati. Josh Alaeze, a second-team All-NEC lineman, anchors the defense.

Bryant (5-7, 3-3) has a strong cast coming back defensively but too many questions on the offensive side of things to be a strong contender. The prime question is about who will replace graduated quarterback Mike Westerhaus, who threw all but seven passes for the Bulldogs in 2013. The likely replacement is sophomore Christopher Schultz.

Defensively, eight of the team's top nine tacklers return, including All-NEC first-team end Jeff Covitz.

After winning the NEC in 2012, **Wagner** (3-8, 2-4) slipped to the bottom of the standings in 2013. Now begins the climb back, led by a defense that returns seven starters, including the top six tacklers from last season.

TOP PLAYERS OFFENSE ▸ Keshaudas Spence, Sr., RB, Sacred Heart DEFENSE ▸ Troy Moore, Sr., DL, Sacred Heart NEWCOMER ▸ Armstead Williams, Jr., LB, Duquesne

SPENCE: COURTESY SACRED HEART ATHLETICS

OHIO VALLEY

ovcsports.com

Gamecocks, TSU to give Valley lots to crow about again

BY MICHAEL GRANT
Louisville Courier-Journal

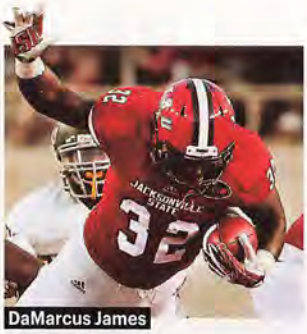
The Ohio Valley Conference finally had an FCS breakthrough in 2013. Not only did it send a league-record three teams to the playoffs—Eastern Illinois, Jacksonville State and Tennessee State—but it ended its postseason futility. All three schools won a playoff game, halting a 19-game losing streak.

The OVC could put at least two more programs in the playoffs this year, with Jacksonville State and Tennessee State being viable contenders.

Jacksonville State (11-4 overall, 5-3 OVC in 2013) will have its third head coach in as many seasons. Former offensive coordinator John Grass was promoted after Bill Clark left to take over UAB. He'll have a tough act to follow since Clark's 11 victories were the most ever by a first-year OVC coach. The Gamecocks, who had been 0-3 lifetime in the FCS playoffs, won a pair of postseason games to the reach the national quarterfinals last year. Fortunately for Grass, his team will return 17 starters.

Under Grass, the Gamecocks set the conference record for most rushing touchdowns (48) with All-America running back DaMarcus James leading the way. James, a senior, should make a strong run for OVC Player of the Year. Last season, he rushed for a school-record 1,477 yards and an OVC-record 29 rushing touchdowns.

Sophomore quarterback Eli Jenkins proved he was quite the dual threat in 2013, finishing fifth in passing efficiency (124.5) and seventh in rushing yards per game (68.1) in the conference. Wide receiver Josh Barge led all OVC freshmen in catches (58) and yards (885).


DaMarcus James

Worth Watching

Jacksonville State at Tennessee State (Oct. 11) will be a battle between the Gamecocks' prolific offense and the Tigers' defensive prowess. Tennessee State held the Gamecocks to only 21 rushing yards in last year's 31-15 victory in Alabama.

Coach Rod Reed might be a hot name to watch for. In his fourth year, he guided **Tennessee State** (10-4, 6-2) to its first-ever FCS playoff win and its first postseason berth since 1999. Over the previous two campaigns, the Tigers are 18-7 and this year will aim for their first OVC title since 1999.

Tennessee State does it with defense. The Tigers were sixth in the FCS in total defense (296.9 yards per game), seventh in scoring defense (18.1 points per game) and third in interceptions (21). The Tigers have six returning starters on defense, with All-America defensive back Daniel Fitzpatrick leading the way. Fitzpatrick had an FCS-high eight interceptions last year, bringing three back for scores. Also back is lineman Anthony Bass, the reigning OVC Defensive Player of the Year, and league-leading tackler Nick Thrasher at linebacker.

At **Eastern Illinois** (12-2, 8-0), gone is Jimmy Garoppolo, the most prolific passer in OVC history who directed the FCS' highest-scoring offense (48.2 ppg) last season. Also out the door is coach Dino Babers, who parlayed his success with the Panthers into the head-coaching job at Bowling Green.

Former Louisiana Tech defensive coordinator Kim Dameron takes over the program. He was EIU's defensive coordinator in 2000 under Bob Spoo when it won the OVC. Who is going to follow Garoppolo? Redshirt freshman Austin Green and senior Andrew Manley will compete and freshman Jeremy Joseph will also get a shot.

Running back Shepard Little will lead the offense after rushing for 1,551 yards, the seventh most in the FCS as a sophomore. Taylor Duncan, his backfield mate, rushed for 988 yards—the fifth most in the OVC. The Panthers bring back three of the OVC's most productive receivers, including Adam Drake (85 catches, 1,305 yards, 13 TDs).

Eastern Kentucky (6-6, 4-4) was expected to compete for a league championship last season, but the Colonels collapsed down the stretch with three straight losses instead.

The offense must improve after averaging a mere 23.5 points in OVC play. Quarterback Jared McClain (13 TDs, 8 INTs) returns for his senior year, but he was benched in the season finale for Kyle Romano. The Colonels' seven returning offensive starters will be keyed by OVC Freshman of the Year Devin Borders, a dangerous 6-5 wideout who had 34 catches for 509 yards and six TDs last season.

Eastern's top three running backs return, led by sophomore JJ Jude (637 rushing yards, 6 TDs). The backfield also welcomes Kentucky transfer Dyshawn Mobley.

Ole Miss transfer Maikhail Miller quarterbacked **Murray State** (6-6, 4-4) to its biggest victories last season: a 35-34 overtime upset of Jacksonville State and a 34-27 overtime victory over Eastern Kentucky. He rushed for 134 yards at Jacksonville State and passed for 467 against EKU. He finished second to Jimmy Garoppolo in total yards per game in the OVC at 265.0.

Murray returns four of its top five pass catchers, led by Jeremy Harness (40 catches, 353 yards).

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Jacksonville State
2. Tennessee State
3. Eastern Illinois
4. Eastern Kentucky
5. Murray State
6. Tennessee-Martin
7. Tennessee Tech
8. Southeast Missouri State
9. Austin Peay

The Racers' defense has been troublesome for years but the addition of ex-Marshall DB Shawn Samuels-Connell should help.

Tennessee-Martin (7-5, 5-3) might need to settle on a quarterback; Jarod Neal and Dylan Favre both saw time behind center last season. Favre, nephew of former NFL great Brett Favre, was statistically better, finishing second in the OVC in passing efficiency to Eastern Illinois' Garoppolo. N.C. State transfer Manny Stocker figures to compete as well.

A revamped receiving corps features University of Memphis transfer Tyriq Patrick, a former three-star recruit. The defense has senior linebacker Tony Bell, who led the OVC in sacks (10.5) last year.

Tennessee Tech (5-7, 2-6) gave up the most sacks in the league (32) and rushed for the second-fewest yards (150.2) in 2013. Blake Luevano, a 6-6, 300-pound juco transfer, might help. He's among four offensive linemen signed in a 14-man incoming class.

Former Toledo defensive coordinator Tom Matukewicz takes over at **Southeast Missouri State** (3-9, 2-6). Matukewicz has a promising young star in sophomore defensive tackle Austin Black. He had 4.5 sacks, 9.5 tackles for loss and blocked a kick last season.

Kirby Cannon's first season as coach at **Austin Peay** (0-12, 0-8) was a nightmare. The Governors were outscored 476-90. They scored the second-fewest points in all of FCS. Cannon hopes the recruiting class provides help, but he suffered a big blow in April when starting tailback Omar Williams was dismissed for academic reasons.

TOP PLAYERS OFFENSE • DaMarcus James, Sr., RB Jacksonville State DEFENSE • Daniel Fitzpatrick, Sr., DB, Tennessee State NEWCOMER • Dyshawn Mobley, Jr., RB, E. Kentucky

JAMES: STEPHEN GROSS / THE ANNISTON STAR / AP

Fordham the fave after four years spent in exile

BY PATRICK STEVENS
The Post-Standard (Syracuse, N.Y.)

Fordham would have contended for the Patriot League's automatic berth into the FCS playoffs last season were it eligible.

This fall, the Rams' long wait to again be a factor for the conference crown will finally end.

Fordham served a four-year penalty for bringing in players with athletic merit aid starting in 2010, two seasons prior and three full recruiting cycles before the Patriot League's presidents voted to allow all of its schools to do so in football. Five of the other six schools began offering scholarship aid with recruiting classes that arrived on campuses in 2013.

Last season, the price **Fordham** (12-2, 5-1 Patriot in 2013 before its sanctions) paid to start ahead of time was ineligibility for the league title and the automatic berth to the FCS playoffs that comes with it. It ultimately didn't hurt the Rams too much; they went 12-2 and earned an at-large bid anyway.

That won't be a problem this year, and it's a good thing for Fordham since it will start the season as the Patriot League favorite, largely because so many important pieces of its potent offense will return.

That starts with senior quarterback Mike Nebrich, whose efficiency in coach Joe Moorhead's offense is the linchpin to the Rams' success. Nebrich completed 73.5 percent of his passes for 4,380 yards and 35 touchdowns last year. His top target, wideout Sam Ajala, returns after a 93-catch season that featured 1,646 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Ajala is one of three 1,000-yard receivers coming back for Fordham.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1 Fordham
2 Bucknell
3 Lafayette
4 Lehigh
5 Colgate
6 Holy Cross
7 Georgetown

Tebucky Jones (85 catches, 1,154 yards) and Brian Wetzel (89 receptions, 1,094 yards, 14 touchdowns) provide plenty of targets for Nebrich to choose from. Toss in Dan Light, who set a school record for receptions for a tight end last fall with 66, and Fordham should at least approach (if not exceed) the 37.6 points it averaged a season ago.

Fordham also returns last year's Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year in Stephen Hodge, a wideout-turned-linebacker who had 124 tackles (16 for loss) and is one of eight starters back on that side of the ball.

The Rams' greatest threat for the league title might come from **Bucknell** (6-5, 3-3), which was by far the Patriot's best defensive team last season. The Bison yielded just 21.9 points and 324.5 yards per game. Fifth-year coach Joe Susan returns linebacker Evan Byers, who had a league-high 129 tackles (10.5 for loss) as a junior.

It will be crucial for the Bison to improve on offense if they are to take a step forward from last year's 6-5 campaign. Sophomore running back C.J. Williams debuted with 899 yards and eight touchdowns and is the No. 2 returning rusher in the Patriot League.

The only more productive rusher back on a Patriot League campus is senior Ross Scheuerman of **Lafayette** (5-7, 5-1), which last year claimed its first conference title since 2006. Scheuerman had plenty to do with that success, rushing for 1,113 yards and 14 touchdowns as the Leopards overcame a slow start to go 5-1 in the Patriot and reach the FCS playoffs.

The Leopards thrived after switching to freshman Drew Reed at quarterback. Reed threw for 17 touchdowns and just five interceptions, and his rapid progress should help offset the loss of oft-targeted receiver Mark Ross (1,078 yards).

Mike Nebrich

Worth Watching

Can anyone keep pace with Fordham? Many of the offensive stars from last year are back for the Rams, who could have a Walter Payton Award contender in QB Mike Nebrich.

Lehigh (8-3, 3-3) has won 39 games over the last four seasons, but brings back just nine starters from last year's 8-3 bunch. The Mountain Hawks should be strong up front on defense, where two starters on the line (including returning All-Patriot selection Tim Newton) and three at linebacker return.

Big holes, though, exist on offense. Lehigh graduated both the Patriot's top receiver (Lee Kurfis) and the program's first 1,000-yard rusher in 11 seasons (Keith Sherman). How quickly quality replacements emerge at both spots will go a long way to determining the Mountain Hawks' success.

Dan Hunt takes over as coach at **Colgate** (4-8, 3-3) after Dick Biddle's retirement after 18 seasons, a stretch during which the Raiders won 137 games and seven conference titles. Hunt was part of all of those teams as an assistant, and spent the last seven years as Colgate's offensive coordinator.

The Raiders are coming off a 4-8 season but return all-conference defensive back Mike Armiento (92 tackles, 6 INTs).

Holy Cross (3-9, 1-5) was a bit unfortunate last season, going 1-6 in games decided by a touchdown or less. The emergence of freshman quarterback Peter Pujals (2,261 yards, 19 touchdowns, 8 INTs) was a definite bright spot in the 3-9 campaign, and the Crusaders' offense should take another step forward.

The far greater concerns reside with a defense that surrendered 449.1 yards per game and gave up at least 27 points to every Patriot League opponent. The Crusaders' ceiling is directly linked with becoming more efficient on defense.

After eight seasons at **Georgetown** (2-9, 1-5), coach Kevin Kelly resigned in January to take a job as an assistant at Ball State. His replacement is a familiar name on the Hilltop: Rob Sgarlata, who played for the Hoyas in the 1990s and spent the last 18 years with the program as an assistant, most recently as defensive coordinator.

Sgarlata's immediate task will be improving Georgetown's turnover margin and cutting down on big plays allowed. His first team has strength in the front seven on defense, with linebacker Nick Alfieri, end Alec May and tackle Jordan Richardson all coming off second-team All-Patriot seasons.

TOP PLAYERS OFFENSE ▸ Mike Nebrich, Sr., QB, Fordham DEFENSE ▸ Stephen Hodge, Sr., LB, Fordham NEWCOMER ▸ Chase Edmonds, Fr., RB, Fordham

NEBRICH: VINNY DUSCVIC / FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Make room for new blood at the top in Drake and Dayton

BY MICHAEL GENTRY
Staff Writer

For the second straight year there was drama at the top of the Pioneer Football League in 2013, with San Diego, Butler and Marist each going 7-1, vying for the conference's first automatic FCS playoff bid.

But, there was a plot twist.

In November, San Diego acknowledged improper financial-aid distribution (PFL rules prohibit scholarship money for athletic participation) and had its conference wins vacated. The Toreros would have claimed the NCAA bid, having beaten both Marist and Butler. Massive losses on both sides of the ball have Butler and San Diego written out of this year's script.

Drake (6-5, 5-3 PFL in 2013) was part of the 2012 three-way tie at the top of the league. Junior quarterback Andy Rice, who passed for 2,801 yards last season, will look to get the Bulldogs back on top. Other than last year's leading receiver, Nick Rosa, Drake returns all of Rice's offensive weapons. Linebacker John Hugunin, along with his 113 tackles, is also back to lead the conference's best defense from last year.

Dayton (7-4, 5-3) lost a great leader and major defensive talent in linebacker Colin Monnier. However, the Flyers return lots of veterans, including Will Bardo at quarterback. Bardo totaled 2,434 yards and 21 touchdowns through the air and on the ground in 2013. He will hand the ball off to senior Connor Kacsor, who ran for 966 yards last season. The losses are more significant on defense, but the primary returner is defensive end Pat Dowd, who led the conference in sacks (11.5).

Jacksonville (5-6, 4-4) was explosive offensively in 2013, ranking sixth in FCS passing offense (331.5 ypg), but was woeful on defense, especially against the run. The chasm between the two is even greater this year. Quarterback Kade Bell, who averaged 300 yards passing in eight games last season, and Walter Camp All-America receiver Andrew Bustelli return along with eight other offensive starters. Defensively, however, the entire secondary and three of the four linemen will be new.

Kade Bell

Worth Watching

The premier PFL showdown will take place at high noon on Saturday, Oct. 4, when Jacksonville takes on visiting Drake in Florida. Jacksonville's high-powered passing game will be tasked with overcoming the conference's best defense while also outscoring a respectable Drake offense.

Campbell (3-9, 2-6) grew in the offseason in terms of age, talent and size. The offense will rely on a rushing attack that was ranked among the top 20 in the FCS last year. With the offensive line returning intact along with running backs DeShawn Jones and Keith Goss, second-year coach Mike Minter says the running game will be top-five quality. The longtime former Carolina Panthers safety has addressed last year's defensive shortcomings by bringing in several FBS transfers. Seven D-linemen join the roster, and two incoming recruits Minter is high on, Brandon Long and Greg Millhouse, measure out at 6-3 and almost 300 pounds.

San Diego (8-3, 7-1 before its sanctions) graduated 21 seniors, the biggest loss being conference passing leader and PFL Offensive Player of the Year Mason Mills, who threw for 3,463 yards and 35 touchdowns last year. Also gone are last year's top three rushers, who totaled 1,730 yards, and five of the top eight tacklers, including sack leader Steve Gargiulo at defensive end. The Toreros are perennial contenders for the PFL title, but all the departures may keep them from doing so this year.

Butler (9-4, 7-1) will feel the losses of a 2,700-yard passer, a 1,300-yard rusher, a 1,000-yard receiver and seven of the top 11 tacklers from a year ago, including the team leaders in sacks and interceptions. Returning junior Rico Watson averaged 6.1 yards per carry in 2013, but had only 50 carries. The Bulldogs will have much to overcome, with few seniors and fewer returning impact players.

Marist (8-3, 7-1) graduated its all-time leading passer, Chuckie Looney. As a double-whammy, the program also lost career sack leader Terrence Fede. Running back Atiq Lucas (12 touchdowns) and first-team All-PFL linebacker Paul Sakowski will shoulder the burden for a team in transition.

Morehead State (3-9, 3-5) will struggle to maintain balance as dualities abound. Seventeen starters are among 28 returning upperclassmen, but 23 redshirts from last year enter with no game experience. The offensive line is deep, with just one departure, but coach Rob Tenyer says last year's starting quarterback, Austin Gahafer, will have to earn the position again considering the Eagles' disappointing 2013 campaign. Defensively, Morehead is strong up front and in the secondary, but the linebacking corps is weak and was terrible against the run last season.

Valparaiso (1-10, 1-7) and first-year coach Dave Cecchini learned early on that the Crusaders would embark on the upcoming campaign without stellar quarterback Eric Hoffman, who had 22 passing touchdowns last year but moved on after graduation despite having one season of eligibility remaining. His departure yields a QB competition of virtual unknowns, headlined by senior Ben Lehman, who had 22 total passing attempts last year. Aerial weapons remain, however, in Andrew Cassara and Tanner Kuramata, who are each coming off of 50-plus-catch seasons.

Davidson (0-11, 0-8) coach Paul Nichols sums up the 2013 season with one word—"survival"—as injuries forced 27 freshmen onto the field for the Wildcats. This year, all-time passing leader Jonathan Carkhuff is gone but 15 starters return, including eight on defense, along with the entire second-team defense. Eighteen defensive recruits spread evenly among the units will join them, affording Nichols, a former Davidson QB, his wish of playing 25 defenders per game.

Stetson (2-9, 1-7) is finding that resurrecting a program after 57 years is a difficult chore. The Hatters' one conference win came against winless Davidson. More bad news came after the season, when several key players left the program looking to transfer to scholarship-offering programs. They included rising sophomore wideout Chris Crawford, last year's leader in receptions (30) and punt returns. Quarterback Ryan Tentler is back, however, having accounted for 2,149 total yards and 15 touchdowns in 2013.

pioneer football league

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Drake
2. Dayton
3. Jacksonville
4. Campbell
5. San Diego
6. Butler
7. Marist
8. Morehead State
9. Valparaiso
10. Davidson
11. Stetson

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE ▸ **Kade Bell**, Jr., QB, Jacksonville

DEFENSE ▸ **John Hugunin**, Jr., LB, Drake

NEWCOMER ▸ **Brandon Long**, Fr., DT, Campbell

BELL: SKIP TAPP/WIDESPREAD PHOTOGRAPHY

Revamped SoCon looking for new national powers to develop

BY WILL LONG
Assistant Editor

The Southern Conference is undergoing a drastic makeover with the departures of Appalachian State, Georgia Southern and Elon. The Mountaineers and Eagles, both joining the Sun Belt in 2014, take with them a combined 22 SoCon and nine FCS national championships. The Phoenix left for the CAA after an 11-year SoCon run that began in 2003.

Replacing the former members will be Mercer, VMI and East Tennessee State. Last season, the Bears played their first year of football since 1941 as a member of the Pioneer League. The Keydets, who were members of the Southern from 1924 to 2002, bring seven conference championships back into the fold. The Bucs, who also rejoin the league after leaving in 2005, will begin playing football again in 2015.

But the SoCon still has a lot to be excited about for 2014. The three teams that tied for the conference championship in '13 —Chattanooga, Furman and Samford—all return with dreams of becoming the new league stalwart.

Chattanooga (8-4, 6-2 SoCon), which shared the league crown last season for the first time since 1984, was the only one of the three champions not selected to the FCS playoffs. The Mocs return eight starters on offense, including SoCon Player of the Year Jacob Huesman at quarterback. The dual-threat signal-caller passed for 1,637 yards and 16 touchdowns while rushing for 894 yards and nine more scores. Running back Keon Williams, who was second in the SoCon in rushing through the first seven games of 2013, returns after suffering an injury against The Citadel that sidelined him for the rest of the season.

The Mocs return five starters from the conference's top scoring and total defense. End Davis Tull led the league in sacks (9.0) for the second straight season en route to repeating as SoCon Defensive Player of the Year. Chattanooga returns three other defenders who earned first-team all-conference honors.

In his third season as head coach in Greenville, S.C., Bruce Fowler got **Furman** back to the top of the conference and into the playoffs. The Paladins led the SoCon in turnover margin (plus 12), and that played a big role in turning around a 2-4 start into an 8-6 season. Nine starters are back for a defense that allowed 24.3 points per game. Linebacker Carl Rider recorded 136 tackles last season, while team defensive MVP Marcus McMorris returns after making 113 stops.

The Paladins will need to improve on offense after scoring just 22.7 points per game. The focal point will be running back Hank McCloud, who rushed for 1,092 yards on 5.1 yards per carry. Quarterback Reese Hannon returns under center after completing 60.2 percent of his passes for 1,748 yards with seven touchdowns.

Mike Ayers is entering his 27th season as coach at **Wofford**. The Terriers are coming off a disappointing 5-6 campaign, but the return of running back Will Gay (70 carries, 486 yards, 2 touchdowns) should allow Wofford to improve on its triple option attack. Quarterbacks Michael Weimer and Evan Jacks return to pilot the triple-option attack after splitting time under center last year.

The Terriers should be solid on defense with the return of seven starters, including end Tarek Odom (13 tackles for loss), linebacker Kevin Thomas (80 tackles) and cornerback Chris Armfield (3 INTs).

Samford (8-5, 6-2) shared the conference title in 2013, but former Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan's team may take a step back this season.

The Bulldogs averaged 292.8 yards passing per game, but QB Andy Summerlin graduated. No quarterback on the roster has thrown a pass in a Samford uniform. The Bulldogs also lose its top running back (Fabian Truss) and receiver (Kelsey Pope). Four of the top five tacklers return on a defense that must improve on the 196.5 yards rushing allowed per game.

New coach Mike Houston takes over at **The Citadel** (5-7, 4-4) and he will keep the Bulldogs' triple-option offense in place. Houston will hand the keys for the attack to quarterback Aaron Miller, who has played in 28 career games (772 rushing yards, 1,038 passing yards, 14 total touchdowns). The Bulldogs lose their top two rushers and all five starting linemen, so a defense that returns nine starters may be forced to carry the load early.

Coach Bobby Lamb returns to the SoCon with his second **Mercer** team. Last season, the former Furman coach led the Bears to a 10-2 mark in their first year of football since 1941. Mercer ranked second in the FCS with 277.9 rushing yards per game, a good sign considering the emphasis placed on running the ball in the SoCon. The Bears, as with most start-up programs, return everyone from last season, including quarterback John Russ, the Pioneer Football League's Freshman of the Year in 2013.

Western Carolina (2-10, 1-7) has been undergoing a youth movement that will likely continue as Mark Speir enters his third season as coach in Cullowhee with only three wins to his credit. The Catamounts had five players selected to the league's All-Freshman Team last year. Wide receiver Karnorris Benson (school-record 12 TD receptions) is the big-play threat on an offense that returns 10 starters. The defense welcomes back nine starters, including the entire secondary.

VMI (2-10, 1-4 Big South) returns to the SoCon after an 11-year run in the Big South. The Keydets struggled against the run in 2013, allowing 212.3 yards per game on the ground. Seventh-year coach Sparky Woods' team will have to improve defensively in order to compete in the run-heavy SoCon. Running back Derrick Ziglar is the best playmaker on offense, having rushed for 768 yards on 5.2 yards per carry with five touchdowns a year ago.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Chattanooga
2. Furman
3. Wofford
4. Samford
5. The Citadel
6. Mercer
7. Western Carolina
8. VMI

Jacob Huesman

HUESMAN: DAVE MARTIN / AP

Worth Watching

Furman welcomes Chattanooga to Paladin Stadium on Nov. 22 to close out the regular season in a game that very well could determine the SoCon championship. The Paladins' 31-9 loss in the "Scenic City" last season kept them from an outright conference title.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE ▸ **Jacob Huesman**, Jr., QB, Chattanooga

DEFENSE ▸ **Davis Tull**, Sr., DE, Chattanooga

NEWCOMER ▸ **Michael Eubank**, Jr., QB, Samford

SOUTHLAND

southland.org

3 operative digit in new-look SLC

BY TIM BUCKLEY
Lafayette (La.) Advertiser

Three Southland teams went to last season's FCS playoffs: Southeastern Louisiana, Sam Houston State and McNeese State. Three newcomers join: Houston Baptist, Abilene Christian and Incarnate Word. And the league has three new coaches, two of them talking national championship.

With national titles at Mississippi Gulf Coast (junior college) and Delta State (NCAA Division 2), Steve Campbell feels one can be had at Central Arkansas. K.C. Keeler—2003 FCS title winner at Delaware—eyes a better-sooner-than-later championship for Sam Houston State, which finished runner-up in both 2011 and 2012.

But the top Southland national title contender now may be Southeastern Louisiana, which beat SHSU in last season's first round.

Clint Conque, meanwhile, left Central Arkansas after 14 seasons as head coach for Stephen F. Austin.

Southeastern Louisiana (11-3 overall, 7-0 Southland) set a single-season school record for victories and made the quarterfinals in its first-ever FCS playoff appearance. The 2013 season was historic; 2014 may be better for SLC Coach of the Year Ron Roberts.

Much pivots around dual-threat quarterback Bryan Bennett—a 3,000-yard passer, 1,000-yard rusher and 2013 Southland Player of the Year.

He's hardly the only weapon, as running backs Rasheed Harrell, Xavier Roberson (also a standout kick returner), Kody Sutton and Darius Guy combined with Bennett for 2,839 yards and 38 touchdowns on the ground. Also returning is top receiver Jeff Smiley (57 catches).

The Lions, who led the Southland in total defense last year, lose linebacker Cqulin Hubert, who was named the 2013 Southland Defensive Player of the Year. But linebacker Isiah Corbett (conference-high 16.0 tackles for loss) returns along with lineman Jacob Newman (13.5 TFLs, 7 sacks).

Bryan Bennett

Worth Watching

Oregon transfer Bryan Bennett threw for 3,165 yards and 21 touchdowns, and rushed for 1,046 yards and a school-record 16 TDs in guiding SLU to the FCS quarterfinals last year. Expect even bigger things this season.

Harlan Miller, Marice Sutton and Tyler Stoddard rejoin a secondary infused with Tulane transfer Jordan Batiste and ex-LSU defensive backs Micah Eugene, Jerqwinick Sandolph and Derrick Raymond.

A 10-3 **McNeese State** (5-2 Southland) playoff team loses three-year starting quarterback Cody Stroud, the Southland Offensive Player of the Year. That should make opening at Nebraska extra fun. Tyler Bolfing and Will Briscoe began the spring vying for Stroud's old job.

Coach Matt Viator's Cowboys return four starters, including All-Southland pick Antione Everett, from a line that had them among the top 25 nationally in scoring, rushing and total offense. Ex-SEC rushers Nate Holmes (Arkansas) and Derek Milton (Mississippi State) join Kelvin Bennett (774 yards) at running back. All-SLC end Everett Ellefsen leads the defense.

At **Sam Houston State** (9-5, 4-3), coach Willie Fritz is gone—to FBS upstart Georgia Southern. Star running back Tim Flanders? Gone. Brian Bell, SHSU's winningest quarterback? Gone.

But the cupboard isn't completely bare for coach K.C. Keeler, who takes over a team that was riddled by injuries last year.

Replacing longtime coach Clint Conque at **Central Arkansas** (7-5, 4-3) is former juco mentor Steve Campbell, who gets tested early with a road trip to Texas Tech.

The Bears were hit by health and injury problems last season, but the young players who stepped into starting roles should benefit this year from the experience they gained. Quarterback Ryan Howard, who took over for injured starter Wynrick Smothers last midseason, threw 18 TD passes and again has top target Dezmin Lewis back.

Central Arkansas' defense had four All-Southland first-teamers in 2013, but only one, lineman Jonathan Woodard, returns.

Lamar (5-7, 2-5) seeks its first winning season since reinstituting football in 2010, but coach Ray Woodard is keen on his Cardinals. A Sept. 6 visit to Texas A&M doesn't make things easier, but two non-Division 1 opponents should.

Defensive questions abound, but a boost will come from Kevin Johnson—a receiver when he initially transferred from Oklahoma State—at safety.

Offensive returnees include QB Caleb Berry. Reigning Southland Freshman of the Year Kade Harrington missed the spring (foot injury), so Lamar may rely early on ex-Memphis rusher Carl Harris.

Northwestern State (6-6, 3-4) won three of its final four games—including over Central Arkansas and Stephen F. Austin—and comes into 2014 with momentum. The Demons must plug holes along the offensive line to protect quarterback Zach Adkins, the 2013 Southland Newcomer of the Year. Adkins threw for a school-record 2,725 yards last season. On defense, tackle Deon Simon is a 315-pound NFL prospect.

At **Stephen F. Austin** (3-9, 1-6), Clint Conque inherits an offense that averaged an FCS-high 389.0 passing yards per game. The Lumberjacks return 1,000-yard rusher Gus Johnson and five of their top six leading receivers, including 1,000-yard pass catcher Tyler Boyd. The top priority for SFA is replacing quarterback Brady Attaway. Replacement candidates include the coach's son, Texas-San Antonio transfer Zach Conque.

Nicholls State (4-8, 1-6) started 4-2 last year before losing six straight, largely due to a porous defense for coach Charlie Stubbs. Tulsa transfer Kalen Henderson, back from a broken leg, and scrambler Tuskani Figaro top a crowded field of contenders at QB.

Incarnate Word went 6-5 in its FCS debut after transitioning from Division 2. Coach Larry Kennan's Cardinals return 10 starters from an offense that produced nearly 4,000 yards, including QB Trent Brittain and productive rusher Broderick Reeves (6.7 yards per carry).

Transitioning up from Division 2 could challenge coach Ken Collums and **Abilene Christian** (6-5), which experienced huge losses on offense and will depend on a youthful defense. With stops at Oklahoma State and Lamar, running back Herschel Sims began the spring favored to start. Two Houston transfers—receiver Larry McDuffey and defensive end William Moore—could help.

After a seven-game developmental schedule last year, **Houston Baptist** (3-4)—coached by former Kansas defensive coordinator Vic Shealy—plays its first full Division 1 season.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Southeastern Louisiana
2. McNeese State
3. Sam Houston State
4. Central Arkansas
5. Lamar
6. Northwestern State
7. Stephen F. Austin
8. Nicholls State
9. Incarnate Word*
10. Abilene Christian*
11. Houston Baptist

** Not eligible for FCS playoffs*

TOP PLAYERS **OFFENSE** • **Bryan Bennett**, Sr., QB, Southeastern Louisiana **DEFENSE** • **Isiah Corbett**, Sr., LB, Southeastern Louisiana **NEWCOMER** • **Nate Holmes**, Jr., RB, McNeese State

BENNETT: JONATHAN BACHMAN / AP

Two legendary SWAC programs enter '14 season under scrutiny

BY LUT WILLIAMS
Black College Sports Page

Grambling State, the most storied program in black college football, imploded into "Team Turmoil" last season, going through three head coaches, a player walkout and a forfeit, not to mention a 1-11 finish. That debacle all but overshadowed Southern's return to the championship circle.

But Southern now has trouble of its own. Inadequate Academic Progress Rate (APR) data caused the NCAA in December to indefinitely ban all of the Jaguars' athletic teams from postseason play.

Rick Comegy, out at Jackson State as coach despite back-to-back East Division titles, takes over at Mississippi Valley State as one of three new coaches in the East.

When the dust settles, look for Alcorn State and Alabama State to battle for East Division supremacy and Prairie View A&M to emerge from the West.

EAST DIVISION

Productive 6-6 quarterback John Gibbs (2,567 passing yards, 21 TDs) led **Alcorn State** (9-3 overall, 7-2 SWAC in 2013) to within one game of winning the East last season and the team is primed for a higher finish. Gibbs will operate behind three All-SWAC selections on the line while a quartet of prospects tries to replace the league's co-Player of the Year, Arnold Walker, in the backfield.

The Braves led the league in scoring and passing defense and return three all-conference defenders—C.J. Morgan and Devon Francois in the secondary and defensive tackle Deion Roberson.

Alabama State (8-4, 7-2) tied with Alcorn State for second in the East last year and is a co-favorite in the division. Junior Daniel Duhart (1,903 passing yards, 18 TDs) is the triggerman on offense with running back Malcolm Cyrus (759 yards, 6 TDs) and wideout Earl Lucas (51 receptions) being his chief weapons. All-conference running back Isaiah Crowell left early for the NFL, but four starters return on the offensive line.

Kourtney Berry was a find last year at outside linebacker and teams with Ed Mosley to give the Hornets a fierce pass rush. Tackles Derrick Billups and Justin Mitchell anchor the defensive line.

Blue Tiger receiving legend Harold Jackson leads a new regime at **Jackson State** (8-4, 8-1) charged with strengthening local recruiting ties and overall team discipline. The five-time NFL Pro Bowler's biggest task, however, will be replacing six starters on offense and defense from back-to-back division championship teams.

Evan Ingram and LaMontiez Ivy get first shots at replacing Clayton Moore at quarterback. Rakeem Sims and Alexander Montgomery battle freshman sensation Jarius Moore for the running back slot. Last year's SWAC Freshman of the Year, Javancy Jones, and Tedderick Terrell are standouts at linebacker, as is Ryan Griffin at safety.

Veteran assistant James Spady succeeds Anthony Jones, who had just three losing seasons in 12 years at **Alabama A&M** (4-8, 4-5). He inherits offensive playmakers in wide receiver Montaurius Smith and tight end Jonathan Dorsey. Lineman Anthony Lanier, linebacker Conard Johnson and corner A.J. Clark are the key defenders.

Rick Comegy comes to **Mississippi Valley State** (2-9, 2-7) ready to work his coaching magic once again. The formula begins with luring a strong recruiting class, which he has done. Quarterback Patrick Ivy and wide receiver Julian Stafford are offensive standouts. Cornerback Avery Boykin is the defensive leader.

WEST DIVISION

Defense was the Achilles' heel for **Prairie View A&M** (6-6, 5-4) last season. The Panthers led the league by putting up 39.0 points and 520.3 yards per game but were among the worst on defense, giving up 489.6 yards and 35.9 points on average. Coach Heishma Northern brought in veteran assistant Cliff Yoshida as the new defensive coordinator and focused his recruiting efforts on that side of the ball.

Senior Jerry Lovelocke (2,833 passing yards, 23 TDs) is back at quarterback and has the one-two punch of senior Courtney Brown (1,039 rushing yards, 10 TDs) and junior Johnta Hebert (907, 5) in the backfield. Hebert is also a special-teams ace. First-team All-SWAC center Dillon Bonnet anchors a veteran offensive line.

Southern (9-4, 7-2) must solve its off-the-field problems to give coach Dawson Odums a chance to follow up on the Jaguars' first title since 2003.

With no returning experience at quarterback, replacing SWAC co-Player of the Year Dray Joseph is a daunting task. Deonte Shorts and Francis Kanneh will vie for the spot. Running back Lenard Tillery (784 rushing yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Willie Quinn (57 receptions, 7 TDs) are solid skill-position players. Nine starters return on defense, led by linebacker Daniel Brown.

A host of key returnees were ruled ineligible in 2013, derailing any chances of **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (2-9, 2-7) defending its 2012 title last season. Quarterback Benjamin Anderson (2,787 passing yards, 19 TDs, 824 rushing yards) returns for his senior campaign. Running backs Willie Young (526 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and Jamie Smith (380, 1) and wideout Cody Swain (30 receptions, 4 TDs) will have bigger roles.

Linebackers Antonio Jenkins and Willie Duncan III are the top returning tacklers.

Four single-digit losses last year in conference play showed that, despite facing another year of NCAA-imposed sanctions, coach Darrell Asberry has **Texas Southern** (2-9, 2-7) moving in the right direction. Junior end Amir Bloom is the standout on a senior-laden defensive unit. Dual-threat quarterback Homer Causey will cause headaches for tacklers.

Grambling State (1-11, 1-8) settled on former G-Man Broderick Lee Fobbs, the former tight ends coach at McNeese State, as its new head coach. D.J. Williams returns for his senior season at quarterback, with junior Chester Rogers (48 receptions, 5 TDs) his chief target. Linebackers Steve Orisakwe and Aaron Breed and cornerback Nicholas Peoples are the top returning defenders.

SWAC
SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST DIVISION

1 Alcorn State
2 Alabama State
3 Jackson State
4 Alabama A&M
5 Mississippi Valley State

WEST DIVISION

1 Prairie View A&M
2 Southern
3 Arkansas-Pine Bluff
4 Texas Southern
5 Grambling State

John Gibbs

Worth Watching

Perhaps the biggest question in the SWAC is whether Southern will have resolved its APR issues in time to be eligible for the league title game.

TOP PLAYERS OFFENSE ▸ Jerry Lovelocke, Sr., QB, Prairie View A&M DEFENSE ▸ Amir Bloom, Jr., DE, Texas Southern NEWCOMER ▸ Jarius Moore, Fr., RB, Jackson State

GIBBS: ROGELIO V. SOLIS / AP

NCAA®

DIVISION 2
2014 PREVIEW

TOP 25

1	Northwest Missouri State
2	Grand Valley State
3	Colorado State-Pueblo
4	Minnesota State-Mankato
5	Lenoir-Rhyne
6	West Chester
7	North Alabama
8	Minnesota-Duluth
9	West Texas A&M
10	Henderson State
11	Shepherd
12	Winston-Salem State
13	Ohio Dominican
14	Pittsburg State
15	St. Cloud State
16	Indianapolis
17	Bloomsburg
18	Carson-Newman
19	Delta State
20	American International
21	Tuskegee
22	Emporia State
23	Newberry
24	East Stroudsburg
25	Azusa Pacific

D2 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Offense

QB	**Kevin Rodgers,** Henderson State (6-3, 215, Sr.)
RB	**Tyler Tonderum,** Southwest Minnesota State (5-10, 191, Sr.)
RB	**Daiquone Ford,** Findlay (5-7, 190, Jr.)
OL	**Cole Manhart,** Nebraska-Kearney (6-6, 300, Sr.)
OL	**Matthew Reese,** Tuskegee (6-3, 315, Sr.)
OL	**Joe Ray,** Lenoir-Rhyne (6-0, 245, Jr.)
OL	**Cory Tucker,** Slippery Rock (6-4, 280, Jr.)
OL	**Garrison Ushery,** West Georgia (6-1, 335, Sr.)
TE	**Jamie Potts,** Grand Valley State (6-3, 225, Jr.)
WR	**Jere Brown,** Shippensburg (6-2, 210, Sr.)
WR	**Trevor Harman,** Shippensburg (6-2, 210, Sr.)

Defense

DL	**Matt Longacre,** Northwest Missouri State (6-3, 240, Jr.)
DL	**Darius Allen,** Colorado State-Pueblo (6-3, 239, Sr.)
DL	**Charlie Tuaau,** Texas A&M-Commerce (6-5, 310, Sr.)
DL	**Grant Singer,** Mary (N.D.) (6-1, 215, Sr.)
LB	**Ronell Williams,** West Chester (6-1, 230, Sr.)
LB	**Isaiah Fleming,** Cheyney (5-11, 220, Sr.)
LB	**D.J. Gnader,** Northwest Missouri State (6-2, 225, Sr.)
DB	**John Strickland,** Indianapolis (5-11, 222, Sr.)
DB	**Tyler Thornton,** Azusa Pacific (5-8, 182, Sr.)
DB	**Colin Kimball,** Mercyhurst (5-11, 160, Sr.)
DB	**Harold Jones-Quartey,** Findlay (5-11, 200, Sr.)

Specialists

K	**Brent Wahle,** Ohio Dominican (6-2, 175, Jr.)
P	**Patrick Carney,** New Mexico Highlands (6-2, 222, Sr.)

Brady Bolles

Bearcats good bet to repeat with title game in back yard

BY GREGG DEWALT | *Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily*

A new era in Division 2 football takes shape this season. For 28 years, at the start of each season, every team in the NCAA's second division has set its sights on making the playoffs and winning its way to Florence, Ala., for the national championship game.

The goal of making it to the title game remains the same in 2014, but the venue will be different. The game shifts to Sporting Park in Kansas City (home of the town's Major League Soccer franchise) for the next four seasons after the Kansas City Sports Commission and Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association won the bid to host the game through 2017.

For MIAA commissioner Dr. Bob Boerigter, luring the game to K.C. made sense.

He cited the abundance of alums from schools in the MIAA in the Kansas City area–estimated to be approximately 80,000–and awareness of the conference brand as factoring into the decision to go after the game.

Also, the MIAA has had a team in the championship contest in seven of the past nine years.

"There's a lot of interest in Division 2 football and our conference in this area," Boerigter says. "The Kansas City Sports Commission has been great in pursuing regional and national championships. And the opportunity for availability fit into the scope of all the championships."

Boerigter acknowledges Florence set the standard for Division 2 football championships. Its run of 28 consecutive years played in the same venue was second longest in NCAA history, trailing only baseball's College World Series in Omaha.

Now it's Kansas City's turn to put on a show for a national audience. Boerigter is confident that will happen and believes the game won't get lost in a town that has Major League Baseball, the NFL and MLS.

PRESEASON TOP 25

Given the program's history, there's no reason to think **Northwest Missouri State** (15-0) won't be in Kansas City to defend its national title. Sure, the Bearcats lost 10 starters, but most of those players will be replaced by upperclassmen that have been in the program since they were freshmen. It's the Northwest Missouri way: Redshirt the bulk of each recruiting class and build from within.

The defense should again be loaded with All-America end Matt Longacre (12 sacks, 20.5 tackles for loss) and linebackers D.J. Gnader (111 tackles) and Eric Reimer (106) back for another year. Quarterback Brady Bolles, who was third in rushing with 607 yards and 12 touchdowns, returns after splitting time with former QB Trevor Adams. Clearly, Northwest Missouri is the cream of a very tough MIAA crop.

Grand Valley State (12-3) hasn't won a championship since 2006, but the Lakers appear to be fast-tracking their way back into title contention. Coming off a semifinal appearance in which it lost to eventual champ Northwest Missouri, coach Matt Mitchell's veteran team is

BOLLES: DAVE MARTIN / AP

poised for another run. The Lakers will again be balanced on offense with the return of QB Heath Parling (27 TD passes) and running backs Michael Ratay and Chris Robinson, who combined for nearly 1,900 yards and 22 scores. Parling's favorite target also returns in tight end Jamie Potts, who caught 54 passes for 899 yards and 11 TDs.

Coach John Wristen has built **Colorado State-Pueblo** (11-1) into a national power, and the Thunderwolves show no sign of slowing down. Armed with seven returning first-team All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference players and four more second-teamers, the T-Wolves are primed to make another playoff appearance. Eleven of QB Chris Bonner's 33 TD passes last year went to wideout Paul Browning, and both are back for another season.

Minnesota State-Mankato (11-1) has made seven straight playoff appearances. After allowing only 37 points in the final four regular-season games, coach Aaron Keen's team gave up 54 to St. Cloud in a playoff loss. Keen returns 17 starters among the position players, but needs to find a replacement for dual-threat QB Jon Wolf.

If **Lenoir-Rhyne** (13-2) is to make another run at a championship, it will do so with a new coach. Mike Houston left for The Citadel and former Army offensive coordinator Ian Shields was lured away from West Point to take over. Why Shields? Mostly because of his background grooming option offenses similar to what has brought success to the Bears, who have won three consecutive South Atlantic Conference titles. Shields has plenty to work with: The Bears return a trio of 900-yard rushers.

West Chester (13-2) made an historic run to last season's semifinals, where it lost to Lenoir-Rhyne. The 13 wins were a school record and the Golden Rams ended the season nationally ranked (No. 4) for the first time since 2008. Gone is first-team All-America running back Rondell White, who finished 2013 with 1,989 yards and 21 TDs, but linebacker Ronell Williams (110 tackles) and QB Sean McCartney (3,569 yards, 34 TD passes) are back to lead the way.

North Alabama (10-3) made a quick return to the playoffs in coach Bobby Wallace's second season. All three of the Lions' losses were by three points, including a third-round setback to Lenoir-Rhyne. Wallace must rebuild a defense that loses seven starters, including all three linebackers, but he's confident the pieces are in place to do so.

Minnesota-Duluth (11-2) didn't miss a beat with new coach Curt Wiese on the sidelines after he was elevated from offensive coordinator when Bob Nielson accepted the head-coaching job at FBS Western Illinois after the 2012 season. The bulk of the team's skill players return, including the backfield of QB Drew Bauer and running backs Austin Sikorski and Logan Lauters, who combined for 2,819 yards and 37 touchdowns. Finding a replacement for Associated Press Little All-America linebacker Colby Ring will be the big challenge.

West Texas A&M (11-3), which lost three games by a total of 12 points, will have to reload to remain atop the Lone Star Conference. Coach Mike Nesbitt's immediate concern is finding a replacement for Harlon Hill Trophy runner-up Dustin Vaughan, the record-setting Buffaloes QB who threw for a jaw-dropping 5,401 yards and 53 touchdown passes last season.

Harlon Hill Trophy finalist Kevin Rodgers led **Henderson State** (11-1) to its third 11-win season in school history last year, and its first since 1975. He'll enter this campaign as the front-runner to win the trophy, after throwing for 4,807 yards and 40 TDs. Rodgers will again be throwing to three of his top four receivers from 2013: Darius Davis, Dustin Holland and Israel Valentin combined for 169 catches, 2,812 yards and 23 TDs last year.

Shepherd (11-1) relied on defense to win the Mountain East Conference title last season. The Rams led Division 2 in rushing defense (48.3 yards per game) but must replace lineman Robert Hayes, who had 11 sacks and 12 tackles for loss. The offense will rely on running backs Allen Cross (1,110 yards, 12 TDs) and Jabre Lolley (925, 15).

Winston-Salem State (10-2) didn't go far to find its new coach when Connell Maynor left for FCS Hampton after another playoff appearance. The Rams elevated defensive coordinator Kienus Boulware to the top spot. Winston-Salem's offense, which led the conference in scoring, is in good hands with the return of QB Rudy Johnson, who threw 25 TD passes and rushed for six more in 2013.

Ohio Dominican (10-1) has only been playing football for 10 years and has been playoff eligible for just three seasons, but it already owns a Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title after a perfect 9-0 run in league play last season. Coach Bill Conley must find replacements for All-America defensive back Justin Bell and leading rusher Mark Nichols, but he has an eye-popping 16 all-conference players returning.

Pittsburg State (10-2) always is a threat in the MIAA. Last season, the Gorillas reached No. 7 in the polls after a 6-0 start before losing to Northwest Missouri and Missouri Southern. The biggest hole to be filled on defense is the loss of four-time All-America linebacker Nate Dreiling, but the offense should be just fine as QB Anthony Abenoja (30 TD passes) and running back Jeff Seybold (1,434 yards, 22 TDs) return.

St. Cloud State (12-2) has its work cut out after setting a school record for wins last season. Coach Scott Underwood loses QB Phillip Klaphake, who passed and rushed for 43 touchdowns. Also gone are running back Michael Walker, who rushed for 20 scores, and All-America safety Jack Moro.

It's easy to see how **Indianapolis** (10-2) won the Great Lakes Valley Conference last year: defense. The Greyhounds allowed a Division 2-low 19 touchdowns while leading the nation in scoring defense (13.3 ppg). Coach Bob Bartolomeo's team finished second in pass defense (157.7 ypg) and fifth in total defense (282.5).

The success of **Bloomsburg** (10-2) will largely depend on how it replaces Harlon Hill Trophy winner Franklyn Quiteh, the running back who finished with 29 of the team's 42 rushing touchdowns and 2,195 of its 3,762 rushing yards in 2013.

De'Andre Thomas, who set a school record for rushing touchdowns by a quarterback with 20 last year, is among the 14 returning starters for **Carson-Newman** (10-3). Backfield mate Andy Hibbett also returns at running back and is coming off an 837-yard, nine-touchdown season for the Eagles.

With 18 of its 22 position players returning and the addition of 12 midyear transfers, **Delta State** (8-3) could easily make a deep playoff run. Quarterback Tyler Sullivan threw 15 TD passes in seven games and the Statesmen have their top nine receivers returning.

American International (9-3) edged out Stonehill for the Northeast-10 title last season, earning its first playoff appearance since 2008. Linebacker Jaquawne Simpkins is back after being named the league's Defensive Player of the Year. Conference MVP Kevin Arduino, a dynamic dual-threat QB, also returns after rushing for 942 yards and throwing for 2,374. He accounted for 33 touchdowns combined.

It was a banner 2013 campaign for **Tuskegee** (8-3), which ventured into the NCAA playoffs for the first time. The Golden Tigers have long been the marquee Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference team, but always ended the season in the Turkey Day Classic against Alabama State. Last year, coach Willie Slater's team decided to go the playoff route. A narrow 30-27 loss at North Alabama proved it belonged. With running back Tyree Brooks and 6-3 wide receiver Larry Cobb returning, Tuskegee will again be tough to beat.

Emporia State (9-2) returns nine offensive starters from last year's team, including QB Brent Wilson, who threw for nearly 3,000 yards in 10 games, and running back Antonio Brown. But the Hornets must find a new go-to wideout with the departure of 1,000-yard receiver Ray Ray Davis.

Newberry (9-3) has a strong offensive nucleus returning after making only the second playoff appearance in school history last year. Quarterback W.T. Murden will have to find a new go-to receiver with the departure of Corey Washington, who had 16 TDs.

East Stroudsburg (7-4) struggled to beat the upper-echelon Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference teams in 2013, but with QB Matt Soltes (34 TD passes) and running back Robert Healy (1,129 rushing yards) among 18 starters returning, the Warriors could contend for a league title.

Azusa Pacific (10-2) is now playoff-eligible and coach Victor Santa Cruz will ride workhorse running back Terrell Watson, who broke Christian Okoye's single-season school rushing record with 1,812 yards last year, as far as he can. Free safety Tyler Thornton (120 tackles, 5 interceptions) anchors the defense.

NCAA DIVISION 3 2014 PREVIEW

TOP 25

1	Wisconsin-Whitewater
2	Mount Union
3	Linfield
4	Mary Hardin-Baylor
5	Wesley
6	Bethel
7	North Central
8	John Carroll
9	Wisconsin-Platteville
10	St. John Fisher
11	Lycoming
12	Hobart
13	Wabash
14	Thomas More
15	St. Thomas
16	Johns Hopkins
17	Pacific Lutheran
18	Muhlenberg
19	Heidelberg
20	Wittenberg
21	Rowan
22	Washington & Jefferson
23	Wheaton
24	Redlands
25	Millsaps

D3 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Offense

QB	Kevin Burke,	Mount Union (5-11, 190, Sr.)
RB	Domonique Hayden,	Thomas More (5-9, 215, Sr.)
RB	Cartel Brooks,	(5-8, 195, Sr.)
OL	Steven Schultz,	(6-5, 300, Sr.)
OL	Sterling Cantue,	Mary Hardin-Baylor (6-0, 250, Sr.)
OL	Bubba Friedlund,	Bethel (6-2, 285, Sr.)
OL	Rance Hightower,	Maryville (6-3, 300, Sr.)
OL	Zack Crossey,	Washington & Jefferson (6-1, 285, Jr.)
TE	Michael Long,	Muhlenberg (6-1, 217, Sr.)
WR	Jake Kumerow,	Wisconsin-Whitewater (6-5, 195, Sr.)
WR	Anthony Davis,	Widener (6-0, 196, Sr.)

Defense

DL	Tyre Coleman,	Hobart (6-1, 250, Sr.)
DL	John Worley,	Illinois Wesleyan (6-4, 245, Sr.)
DL	Brynnan Hyland,	Linfield (6-2, 240, Sr.)
DL	Frank Gaffney,	Lebanon Valley (6-2, 205, Sr.)
LB	Cody Buresh,	Wabash (6-1, 211, Sr.)
LB	Sosthene Kapepula,	Wesley (6-3, 221, Sr.)
LB	Sean Preish,	St. John Fisher (6-1, 220, Sr.)
DB	Tanner Troutman,	Lycoming (5-10, 165, Sr.)
DB	Alex Kocheff,	Mount Union (5-10, 205, Jr.)
DB	Aaron Fant,	Franklin & Marshall (5-9, 180, Sr.)
DB	Brady Grayvold,	Wisconsin-Whitewater (5-11, 197, Sr.)

Specialists

K	Kresimir Ivkovic,	John Carroll (6-3, 190, Sr.)
P	Taylor Morton,	Susquehanna (5-10, 175, Jr.)

Wisconsin-Whitewater

The gap may be closing, but two teams still stand supreme in D3

BY MIKE GOENS | *Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily*

Grabbing a catchable pass in the end zone, converting a short field goal, one less turnover or one more defensive stand could have easily ended–at least for a year–a two-school domination of Division 3 football in the NCAA.

Mary Hardin-Baylor, Linfield and North Central have spent the offseason wondering what if they had made one more big play in the D3 playoffs last year.

Instead, Wisconsin-Whitewater defeated Mount Union in the Stagg Bowl, marking the ninth consecutive year that one of those two teams have won the national championship. Linfield, in 2004, is the last team other than Mount Union or Whitewater to win the title.

"If you're going to win it all, you've got to beat those two," Mary Hardin-Baylor coach Pete Fredenburg says. "We all understand that, and we understand you can't make mistakes when you play them. We had our chances the last two years, but made critical mistakes."

Mount Union blocked a late punt in the 2012 semifinals to stop the Crusaders. Whitewater defeated them 16-15 in the semis last year.

"Those two teams might have more quality players, but I'm an optimistic guy who hopes the gap is closing," Fredenburg says. "Our guys understand how close we've been, and other teams have been close, too."

Whitewater coach Lance Leipold has produced national titles in five of his first seven seasons. He sees more and more potential championship contenders in Division 3. His Warhawks were left out of the playoffs two seasons ago for the only time during a nine-year period. Last season, they trailed 17-0 against Linfield and 12-0 against Mary Hardin-Baylor in the playoffs before rallying. Whitewater ultimately finished 15-0, capped by a one-sided win against Mount Union in the Stagg Bowl.

"For our two programs to get there as often as we have speaks for both programs and the way we approach football," Leipold says. "We're battle-tested and have been consistent."

Leipold says there are six–and possibly as many as eight–teams in that category.

"It's getting tougher to get to the championship game," he says. "We've seen that the past two years, and not making the playoffs makes you humble and causes you to evaluate yourself a little more."

Despite the emergence of other programs, it appears Whitewater and Mount Union will again lead the D3 field.

PRESEASON TOP 25

Ten offensive starters return from a **Wisconsin-Whitewater** (15-0 last season) unit that scored 52 points in the championship game against Mount Union. Quarterback Matt Behrendt passed for 3,290 yards and 40 touchdowns while being intercepted only once. Jake Kumerow was his chief target, hauling in 19 touchdown catches and gaining 1,331 receiving yards. The other key weapon is running back Jordan Ratliffe, who rushed for 1,259 yards in 2013.

Five starters are back from a defense that

WISCONSIN: DON PETERSEN / AP

created 34 more turnovers than the Warhawks surrendered. Defensive backs Brady Grayvold (9 INTs) and Marcus McLin possess big-play ability, as does lineman Mykael Bratchett.

"The players know how to win and they expect a lot of themselves," Leipold says. "We were young last year and managed to develop depth. We know what's ahead of us, though. We sure don't want to experience sitting at home during the playoffs again."

Mount Union (14-1) also returns experienced players on both sides of the ball—seven starters back on both offense and defense. The Purple Raiders, with 11 national titles and six second-place finishes since 1993, have two superior offensive weapons in quarterback Kevin Burke and running back B.J. Mitchell. Burke passed for 3,830 yards and 44 touchdowns and accounted for 1,025 rushing yards and 14 scores last year. Mitchell set a freshman record with 1,365 rushing yards.

The defense must show improvement after yielding 40 points or more in the final three playoff games. Four big-time returnees—safety Alex Kocheff, lineman Tom Lally and linebackers Hank Spencer and Jonathan Gonell—should provide the needed leadership.

Seeking a sixth straight Northwest Conference title, **Linfield** (11-1) has a lot of experience back with eight starters returning from an offense that led the nation in scoring (48.8 ppg) and five defensive regulars back from a unit that allowed 60 rushing yards a game. The key will be the new quarterback for the spread offense, which features a battle between Matt Yarbrough and Tommy Knecht. Five linemen return with starting experience, led by tackles Steven Schultz and Jacob Hanke. Defensive linemen Brynnan Hyland (17 sacks) and Marq Randall are back to lead the defense. The Wildcats do, however, need help at linebacker and in the secondary.

Coach Pete Fredenburg likes the athleticism of the younger players being counted on to play bigger roles this year at **Mary Hardin-Baylor** (13-1). The Crusaders, who have advanced to at least the second round of the playoffs for 10 consecutive seasons, have quarterback Zach Anderson returning. He was 10-0 as a starter last season and his key targets will be Marcus Wimby, Wykeyhe Walker and Eric Nelson. The key on offense will be finding a consistent rusher. On defense, linemen Teidrick Smith, Lamar Seels and Michael Johnson are solid, as are linebackers Deshon Kinsey and Baylor Mullins.

Wesley (10-3) has plenty of weapons to make a push for the national championship game, as 19 of 22 starters return. Atop the list of standouts are quarterback Joe Callahan (3,599 passing yards, 29 TDs) and receiver Steve Koudossou. Callahan passed for 633 yards and eight touchdowns against Mount Union last year. Among the defensive stars are linebacker Sosthene Kapepula and cornerbacks Leon Jones and Derrick Bender. Kick returner Sean Hopkins returns from injury and will be a big factor on special teams.

Quarterback Erik Peterson (3,034 yards, 24 TDs) gives **Bethel** (12-1) a proven leader. Running back Brandon Marquardt, offensive lineman Bubba Friedlund and defensive stalwarts Landon Mathis, Kyle Asmus and Matt Mehlhorn make the Royals a threat.

North Central (13-1) was one point shy of the championship game last year and could get there if a new quarterback delivers. Tyler Dicken and Dylan Warden will settle that race. The Cardinals have offensive weapons in receiver Peter Sorenson (1,109 receiving yards, 16 TDs) and running back Ryan Kent (1,186 rushing yards, 14 TDs). Linebacker Michael Monterrubio leads the defense.

John Carroll (9-2) is a program on the rise and has plenty of firepower if key injuries can be avoided. Quarterback Mark Myers passed for 3,288 yards and 28 scores last year, and has Aramis Greenwood back as his top target. On defense, Frank Pines (13 sacks) and David Porter will lead the way while new linebackers and cornerbacks adjust.

Another program on the rise is **Wisconsin-Platteville** (10-2), which is coming off its first playoff appearance. The Pioneers have 15 starters returning, led by defensive back Rob Austin and receiver Trevor Whitehead.

With eight starters returning, **St. John Fisher** (10-3) will field one of the nation's top defenses, including linebacker Sean Preish (128 tackles, 7 sacks, 3 forced fumbles). Quarterback Tyler Fenti (3,215 passing yards) is also back after setting four school records, and receiver Nathan Nigolian is a weapon.

Lycoming is getting closer to regaining its national prominence. Nine offensive starters return from a 7-3 squad, including running back Craig Needhammer, quarterback Tyre Jenny and seven offensive linemen with significant experience. Safety Tanner Troutman, the nation's interception leader in 2013, is among seven defensive starters back.

Hobart (10-1) has owned the Liberty League in recent years and should repeat with 14 starters back. Ali Marpet leads a young offensive line, and quarterback Patrick Conlan is efficient. The Statesmen also have a stud on defense in sack specialist Tyler Coleman.

Defense will make **Wabash** (9-1) a playoff contender as nine starters return from a unit that led the nation in total defense. Among those is linebacker Cody Buresh, who had 20 tackles for loss. The Little Giants have four starting offensive linemen back along with running back Tyler Holmes, receiver Houston Hodges and quarterback Michael Putko.

Thomas More (9-1) outscored opponents 40-12 last year and returns 17 starters from a nine-win season. Running back Domonique Hayden topped the 2,000-yard mark last year, while quarterback Jensen Gebhardt threw for more than 2,000 yards and 22 TDs. End Erick Butler is a big-play performer on defense.

At **St. Thomas** (8-2), depth and experience return after the Tommies had a four-year playoff run ended last season. Among the 13 returning starters is quarterback Matt O'Connell, who missed the last six games with a broken leg but is 25-2 as a starter. Running back Jack Kaiser scored 13 times in 2013.

Despite heavy losses on offense, **Johns Hopkins** (10-1) seeks its fifth playoff berth in six years. The Blue Jays have a solid rushing tandem in Brandon Cherry and Stuart Walters, but an experienced defense led by Ryan Rice, Matt Connery and Michael Longo will carry the load. Kicker Nick Campbell is also a weapon.

Pacific Lutheran (8-2) will be potent on offense with lineman Tevon Stephens-Brown, quarterback Dalton Ritchey, league-leading rusher Niko Madison and school-record-holding receiver Kyle Warner back. Cutting down on the 32 turnovers it had last year will be critical, especially during a tough early-season schedule.

A team to watch closely is **Muhlenberg** (8-3), which has 17 starters returning. Tight end Michael Long had 47 catches a year ago, receiver Cody Geyer topped 1,000 yards and quarterback Nick Palladino is back to throw to them. On defense, linebacker Jeremey Thomas and end Greg DeLade combined for 32 sacks.

Heidelberg (8-2) is also a dangerous team, as nine starters return on offense and defense. Cartel Brooks rushed for 1,704 yards and 23 touchdowns last season and is also a weapon in the passing game. Quarterback Mike Mees and top receiver Donteea Dye are back as well. Lineman Ben Poirier is the defensive leader.

Wittenberg (10-2) knows how to win, ranking second in D3 with 727 all-time victories. Aaron Coeling is among the nation's best offensive linemen, and tackle Josh Bannick and cornerback Victor Banjo lead the defense.

Rowan (9-3) has been a model of consistency for decades and will again challenge for regional and national notoriety. The Profs have 10 of 11 starters back on defense, including end Chris Alvarez (10 sacks). Running back Withler Marcelin rushed for 1,438 yards in 2013.

Only one program has more playoff appearances than **Washington & Jefferson** at 23. Quarterback Pete Coughlin and tackle Zack Crossey will lead the offense for the Presidents (8-3), while leading tackler Jared Pratt returns to pace the defense from his linebacker position.

Wheaton (8-2) faces a rebuilding campaign, but the Thunder have a lot of talent with linebacker Adam Dansdill, offensive lineman Spencer Clark, running back Jesse Geary and receiver Andrew Lindquist.

A tough schedule awaits **Redlands** (7-3), but quarterback Kevin Russell and linebacker Mike Tootle are proven leaders.

Millsaps (9-1) has plenty of skilled players returning on offense, including QB Zak Thrasher, running back Mike Barthelemy and wideouts Beau Wells and Trevor King. Linemen Zach Bell (12 sacks) and Jeff Milner plus safety Alex Jackson are back to lead the defense.

JUCO

2014 REPORT

Skyler Howard

TOP JUCO PLAYERS MOVING ON

NCAA school in italics

Offense

- **QB** **Skyler Howard,** 6-0/205, Riverside City, Calif. *West Virginia*
- **RB** **Akeem Judd,** 5-11/215, Georgia Military *Ole Miss*
- **RB** **De'Andre Mann,** 5-10/205, Hartnell, Calif. *Kansas*
- **OL** **Dontavius Blair,** 6-8/300, Garden City, Kan. *Tennessee*
- **OL** **Avery Gennesy,** 6-5/310, East Mississippi *Texas A&M*
- **OL** **David Hedelin,** 6-5/280, C. College of San Francisco *Purdue*
- **OL** **Dominick Jackson,** 6-7/315, College of San Mateo, Calif. *Alabama*
- **OL** **Chad Mavety,** 6-6/320, Nassau, N.Y. *Florida State*
- **TE** **Blake Whiteley,** 6-5/240, Arizona Western *Texas*
- **WR** **Von Pearson,** 6-3/185, Feather River, Calif. *Tennessee*
- **WR** **D'haquille Williams,** 6-2/216, Mississippi Gulf Coast *Auburn*

Defense

- **DL** **Terrell Clinkscales,** 6-4/315, Dodge City, Kan. *Kansas State*
- **DL** **DaVonte Lambert,** 6-3/270, Georgia Military *Auburn*
- **DL** **Claudeson Pelon,** 6-5/280, Mesa, Ariz. *USC*
- **DL** **D.J. Pettway,** 6-3/255, East Mississippi *Alabama*
- **LB** **Devante Bond,** 6-3/240, Sierra, Calif. *Oklahoma*
- **LB** **D'Vonta Derricott,** 6-1/230, Garden City, Kans. *Kansas State*
- **LB** **Chris Weatherd,** 6-4/230, Trinity Valley, Texas *Tennessee*
- **DB** **Kweishi Brown,** 5-11/180, Grossmont, Calif. *Arizona State*
- **DB** **Shattle Fenteng,** 6-2/185, Hutchinson, Kan. *Georgia*
- **DB** **Derrick Moncrief,** 6-2/218, Mississippi Gulf Coast *Auburn*
- **DB** **Joseph Turner,** 6-2/190, College of San Mateo, Calif. *Auburn*

Specialists

- **P** **Mitch Bonnstetter,** 6-0/189, Iowa Central *Ohio*
- **K** **Donnie Hageman,** 6-2/180, Mt. San Antonio, Calif. *San Diego State*
- **RET** **Tyreek Hill,** 5-10/190, Garden City, Kan. *Oklahoma State*

Star search

The quest to find the next Nick Marshall or Cam Newton among the nation's 138 football-playing junior colleges is at a fever pitch.

BY TONY JIMENEZ | *JC Reports*

They are, more often than not, the only game in town. From Georgia Military (Milledgeville) in the East, to Trinity Valley (Texas) in the South, to Butler (Kan.) in the Midwest, to Butte (Calif.) in the West, 138 two-year schools (70 in California, 68 in the National Junior College Athletic Association) thrive in small and often obscure but enthusiastic towns for juco football.

And while the coaches at Georgia Military (Bert Williams), Trinity Valley (Brad Smiley), Butler (Troy Morrell) and Butte (Jeff Jordan) may not be household names, Pete Carroll (Seattle) and John Fox (Denver) are, having taken teams to the Super Bowl last season. Both played at California junior colleges–Carroll at the College of Marin (1969-70) and Fox at Southwestern (1974-75). And for the 11th straight year, at least one player from a California juco played in a Super Bowl.

The number of players who move from junior colleges to the biggest FBS shows grows each season. While mining the plum juco prospects last year, Auburn picked off a quarterback who propelled the Tigers to the BCS National Championship Game for the second time in four years. Last season, it was Nick Marshall of Garden City (Kan.) Community College, while in 2011 it was Cam Newton of Blinn (Texas) College. Newton won a title, Marshall narrowly lost to Florida State, 34-31. That's what you call a good investment.

SUPER SOPHOMORES

OFFENSE	POS	HT/WT	JUNIOR COLLEGE
Will Abt	QB	6-3/200	Grossmont, Calif.
Jovon Robinson	RB	6-0/230	Georgia Military
Kendall Williams	RB	6-1/220	Butte, Calif.
Jamal Danley	OL	6-4/305	East Mississippi
Dominic DeSouza	OL	6-7/290	City College of San Francisco
Dominique Harris	OL	6-4/285	Butte, Calif.
Reggie Harris	OL	6-3/310	Trinity Valley, Texas
Zach Lindsay	OL	6-7/310	Snow, Utah
Matt Morin	TE	6-3/245	Riverside City, Calif.
Devin Gray	WR	6-2/190	Sierra, Calif.
Brandon Snell	WR	6-1/205	Garden City, Kan.
DEFENSE	**POS**	**HT/WT**	**JUNIOR COLLEGE**
D.J. Jones	DL	6-2/310	East Mississippi
Marquavius Lewis	DL	6-4/275	Hutchinson, Kan.
Norman Moimoi	DL	6-1/265	Mt. San Antonio, Calif.
Demond Tucker	DL	6-1/285	Copiah-Lincoln, Miss.
Antonio Kinard	LB	6-3/220	Arizona Western
Josh Williams	LB	6-1/228	Dodge City, Kan.
Austin Wyatt-Thayer	LB	6-5/230	Sierra, Calif.
Tony Bridges	DB	6-0/180	Mississippi Gulf Coast
Jordan Fogal	DB	6-1/185	College of San Mateo, Calif.
Antwan Hadley	DB	6-3/200	Butler, Kan.
Malcom Scott	DB	6-1/185	American River, Calif.
SPECIALISTS	**POS**	**HT/WT**	**JUNIOR COLLEGE**
Carlos Macias	K	5-9/170	Navarro, Texas
Connor Thomas	P	6-2/195	Iowa Western
Aaron Stanton	RET	5-8/180	Ventura, Calif.

PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Butte, Calif. (12-0 last season)

It's common knowledge that many of coach Nick Saban's players at Alabama are cut from a different cloth. Ditto for Butte and Jeff Jordan at the juco level. Butte, though, has a higher winning percentage over the past six seasons (61-7, .897) than the Crimson Tide (72-9, .889). The Roadrunners, who were California state champs a year ago featuring an old-school, pro-style offense, won every game in 2013 by at least eight points. Since 2007, Jordan's teams have compiled at least seven wins per season. Ten starters are back this year, led by four preseason All-Americans: running back Kendall Williams, defensive tackle Mark Rosenquist and offensive linemen Dominique Harris and Jacob Vazquez.

2. East Mississippi (12-0)

Since arriving in Scooba, where there is no McDonald's and the population is less than 700, coach Buddy Stephens has compiled a 56-10 record in six seasons. That winning pace should at least remain steady this year as he returns three highly sought monster linemen in Jamal Danley (6-4, 305 pounds) and David Mahaffey (6-4, 310) on the O-line and noseguard D.J. Jones (6-2, 310) on defense. And the Lions have a juco luxury in standout kicker/punter Drew White, who scored an NJCAA-best 111 points (93-of-99 on extra points) in 2013 and averaged 37.2 yards per punt.

Other vital cogs returning are linebacker Demetrius Cain, quarterback/running back Todd Mays and wideout Kameron Myers. When you throw in three SEC transfers–running back Jeryl Brazil and linebacker Lorenzo Phillips from LSU and QB Max Staver (Florida)–this could be a very

HOWARD: MATT SUNDAY / THE DOMINION-POST / AP

potent Mississippi mixture.

3. Trinity Valley, Texas (9-2)

Coach Brad Smiley had only 16 sophomores on a solid team a year ago, but now there are 32 returning lettermen. Twelve-game freshman starters back include running back Marquel McNac, lineman De'Andre Banks and wide receiver Jarvis Baxter on offense, plus linebackers Cortney Finney and Davonte McMillian and cornerbacks Brandon Stewart and Jomal Wiltz on defense. Much is also expected of preseason All-America offensive tackle Reggie Harris (6-3, 310) and strong-armed transfer QB Ford Childress, who arrives from West Virginia.

4. Iowa Western (11-1)

Brothers Scott (head coach) and Mike Strohmeier (assistant head coach) have a good thing going in Council Bluffs, where their Reivers have gone 23-1 over the past two seasons. Only three starters return, but don't be fooled—a load of talented players were redshirted last year, including highly sought cornerback Deshaughn Terry and defensive tackle Merrick Jackson (6-3, 340). There are also several FBS transfers—led by ex-Tennessee wideout Paul Harris and former Iowa State defensive back Charlie Rogers—who should make a major impact immediately. The kicking game is solid with Danny Hamilton and Connor Thomas. As freshmen, they were impressive: Hamilton made 17 of 21 field goal attempts and all but one of his extra points, while Thomas averaged 40 yards per punt.

5. Butler, Kan. (9-2)

A year ago, the Grizzlies entered the season with only three starters back (one a kicker), yet won nine games. No matter the circumstance, Butler always seems to be in the national title mix thanks to the recruiting prowess of coach Troy Morrell, who enters his 15th season with a sparkling 146-19 (.884) record. This time, however, Morrell has a lot to work with. He has good size, plenty of speed and quality depth to make more noise than usual. Running back Chris Carson (6-1, 215) and All-America cornerback Antwan Hadley (6-3, 200) will continue a long line of top-flight players to come out of El Dorado.

6. Mount San Antonio, Calif. (9-2)

The folks on the Walnut campus should be excused if they were a bit boastful after the Super Bowl given a pair of Seattle Seahawks are former Mounties—linebacker Bruce Irvin and assistant coach and passing-game coordinator Rocky Seto. Coach Bob Jastrab, in his 10th year as head coach, has carved out a name for his program and expect more of the same in 2014. Defensive end Norman Moimoi (6-1, 265), who had 24 tackles and five sacks as a freshman, is a preseason All-American, and Chris Gilchrist (6-6, 200) is a big, quality target at wide receiver. History is certainly on the Mounties' side: Jastrab directs the winningest program in southern California over the past six seasons (69-8, .895).

OTHER JUCO STARS MOVING ON

NAME	POS	HT/WT	JUCO (NCAA SCHOOL)
A.J. Allen	OT	6-7/320	Grossmont, Calif. (Kansas State)
D'Nerius Antoine	DB	6-1/210	Trinity Valley, Texas (Oklahoma State)
Kareem Are	OT	6-5/330	Fort Scott, Kan. (Florida State)
Tarow Barney	DL	6-3/285	Northwest Mississippi (Penn State)
Devon Blackmon	WR	6-2/190	Riverside City, Calif. (BYU)
Edmond Boateng	DE	6-4/280	New Mexico Military (Arizona State)
Jarell Broxton	OL	6-5/330	Lackawanna, Pa. (Baylor)
Kaelin Clay	WR	5-11/190	Mt. San Antonio, Calif. (Utah)
Corey Clements	OL	6-8/340	Mesa, Ariz. (Purdue)
Fahn Cooper	OL	6-5/315	College of DuPage, Ill. (Ole Miss)
Xavier Dampeer	OL	6-3/300	Copiah-Lincoln, Miss. (Auburn)
Andre Davis	WR	6-0/190	Santa Rosa, Calif. (Kansas State)
Shaquille Davis	OL	6-4/320	Mt. San Antonio, Calif. (Texas Tech)
Kenya Dennis	DB	6-1/200	Hinds, Miss. (Missouri)
Jermaine Eluemunor	OL	6-6/300	Lackawanna, Pa. (Texas A&M)
Jordan Finley	OT	6-3/270	Sierra, Calif. (Colorado State)
Ty Flournoy-Smith	TE	6-3/247	Georgia Military (Alabama)
Casey Gladney	WR	6-2/190	Copiah-Lincoln, Miss. (Cincinnati)
Luke Hayes	OT	6-6/290	Butler, Kan. (Kansas State)
Calvin Heurtelou	DT	6-4/305	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Miami)
Cody Hollister	WR	6-4/210	Arizona Western (Arkansas)
Nick Holt	LB	6-2/225	City College of S.F. (Western Kentucky)
Kenny Iloka	DB	6-2/215	Tyler, Texas (TCU)
Cory Johnson	DT	6-4/300	ASA, N.Y. (Kentucky)
Jocquell Johnson	OT	6-5/305	Copiah-Lincoln, Miss. (Mississippi State)
Joe Keels	DE	6-4/280	Highland, Kan. (Nebraska)
Josh Keys	CB	6-0/190	Mississippi Gulf Coast (Texas Tech)
Nick Kurtz	WR	6-6/205	Grossmont, Calif. (BYU)
Abu Lamin	DT	6-4/315	Fort Scott, Kan. (South Carolina)
Eric Lauderdale	WR	6-2/200	Saddleback, Calif. (Arizona State)
Devaroe Lawrence	DL	6-3/290	Georgia Military (Auburn)
Jeremy Liggins	QB/TE	6-3/296	Northeast Mississippi (Ole Miss)
Haniteli Lousi	OG	6-5/295	College of San Mateo, Calif. (Oregon)
Jesse Mack	CB	6-0/180	Highland, Kan. (Kansas State)
Danzel McDaniel	DB	6-2/205	Dodge City, Kan. (Kansas State)
Lance McDowdell	DL	6-4/310	Nassau, N.Y. (UCF)
Greg McKillion	WR	6-5/225	Independence, Kan. (Memphis)
Larry Mazyck	OL	6-7/335	Iowa Western (Maryland)
Brad Odeman	QB	6-2/215	Ventura, Calif. (San Diego State)
Anthony Olobia	DE	6-5/240	Arizona Western (Kansas)
Elijhaa Penny	RB	6-2/249	Cerritos, Calif. (Idaho)
Jarran Reed	DL	6-5/315	East Mississippi (Alabama)
Dominique Robertson	OL	6-5/300	Riverside City, Calif. (Texas Tech)
Christian Russell	LB	6-1/240	East Mississippi (Ole Miss)
Drew Sarvary	OL	6-7/315	Tyler, Texas (Florida)

7. Riverside City, Calif. (10-2)

Winning is nothing new at Riverside City, where the Tigers have gone a combined 40-5 over the past four seasons, including 24 consecutive triumphs at home. Preseason All-America tight end Matt Morin (6-3, 245), a transfer from San Diego State, is a legit pro prospect thanks to his good speed and outstanding ball skills. Only seven starters return, but they are very good ones: strong and physical offensive tackle Lio Lafaele (6-4, 300), high-motor defensive end Jeremiah Mitchell (6-5, 265) and big-hitting linebacker Jonah Moi (6-4, 240).

8. Navarro, Texas (9-3)

Maurice Porter, a 6-6, 300-pound offensive tackle who started every game as a freshman, and kicker Carlos Macias (99 points that included a school-record four field goals in one game) should be playing on Sundays down the road. For now, they headline a fast-paced offense that's dangerous. But coach Brian Mayper's big-time defense has plenty of sizzle and should ensure a seventh consecutive bowl appearance. Other players of note include game-changing wideout Austin Collins, smooth running back Keaun Kinner and tackling machine Kyron Minter at safety.

9. Fullerton, Calif. (12-1)

While last year's team won big, 50 grayshirts (signees who wait until spring to enroll) waited patiently for their turn, which has now arrived. Much is expected of one of them, 6-3, 220-pound quarterback Joey Verhaegh, whom coaches say could be the best to ever play his position at Fullerton. Sophomores who are coming off good freshman campaigns include running back David Wesley (6.1 yards per carry), 6-5, 270-pound offensive tackle Matt Norman (no sacks surrendered, 10 pancake blocks), mobile defensive tackle Kourey Gabriel (6-1, 280) and cornerback Marnez Ogletree. Norman and Daniel Munoz (6-3, 320) anchor a strong offensive line. The defense will be solid up front and in the secondary, but the linebacking corps is inexperienced despite having obvious talent and potential.

10. Georgia Military (11-1)

As a military college that plays as an independent, coach Bert Williams' team is unique. The Bulldogs will be on the road for some 7,000 miles in 2014. They'll play away from home against Top 25 toughies ASA College in New York plus Navarro and Tyler in Texas. Trips to Illinois (College of DuPage) and Pennsylvania (Lackawanna) are also on tap.

Williams' troops should be up for the road-warrior assignment, however, thanks to running back Jovon Robinson, who is arguably the top juco player in the nation entering this season. But Robinson has some talented company on offense with dual-threat quarterback Emanuel Byrd (6-3, 220), wide receiver Zireycus Letman (6-3, 200) and tight end Tomond Hampton.

Defensively, the best Bulldogs are ends Devante Covington and Blake Robbins, hard-hitting free safety Corey Neely and versatile strong safety Donte Beckham.

REST OF THE BEST

11. College of San Mateo, Calif. (10-1)
12. Hutchinson, Kan. (8-4)
13. Tyler, Texas (9-2)
14. Mississippi Gulf Coast (8-2)
15. Ventura, Calif. (6-5)
16. Copiah-Lincoln, Miss. (7-2)
17. City College of San Francisco (8-3)
18. ASA, N.Y. (9-1)
19. Saddleback, Calif. (5-6)
20. Snow, Utah (5-6)
21. Golden West, Calif. (9-2)
22. Dodge City, Kans. (6-4)
23. Cerritos, Calif. (7-4)
24. College of Canyons, Calif. (8-3)
25. Nassau, N.Y. (9-2)

NAIA 2014 REPORT

TOP 10

1	Carroll (Mont.)
2	Morningside (Iowa)
3	Grand View (Iowa)
4	Saint Xavier (Ill.)
5	Baker (Kan.)
6	Missouri Valley
7	Ottawa (Kan.)
8	Faulkner (Ala.)
9	Cumberlands (Ky.)
10	Benedictine (Kan.)

Tevin Lake

NAIA ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Offense

QB	Austin Dodge, (6-3, 210, Sr.) Southern Oregon
RB	Dustin Rinker, (5-10, 205, Sr.) Carroll (Mont.)
RB	Tevin Lake, (5-8, 205, Sr.) Marian (Ind.)
OL	Tyler Ford, (6-5, 270, Sr.) Peru State (Neb.)
OL	Levi Coughlin, (6-6, 302, Sr.) Carroll (Mont.)
OL	John Ilaria, (6-2, 324, Sr.) Bethel (Tenn.)
OL	Byron Klauenberg, (6-4, 285, Jr.) Morningside (Iowa)
OL	George Trujillo, (6-1, 260, Sr.) Valley City State (N.D.)
TE	Donovan Campbell, (5-11, 233, Sr.) Siena Heights (Mich.)
WR	Andre McCullouch, (6-1, 195, Jr.) Rocky Mountain (Mont.)
WR	Brady Roland, (6-1, 170, Sr.) Grand View (Iowa)

Defense

DL	Ty Phillips, (6-2, 252, Sr.) Missouri Valley
DL	Phil Latimer, (6-0, 245, Sr.) Nebraska Wesleyan
DL	Jeff Cascella, (6-5, 215, Sr.) St. Francis (Ill.)
DL	Deron Bruce, (6-4, 215, Sr.) Ottawa (Kan.)
LB	Sean Blomquist, (5-11, 232, Sr.) Carroll (Mont.)
LB	Takari Johnson, (6-1, 235 Sr.) Concordia (Mich.)
LB	Keith Harris, (6-1, 222, Sr.) St. Francis (Ind.)
DB	Stoney Burns, (5-9, 182, Jr.) Bethel (Tenn.)
DB	Kory Stamps, (5-8, 178, Sr.) St. Francis (Ind.)
DB	DeShawn Gilbert, (5-7, 190, Jr.) Siena Heights (Mich.)
DB	Kelvin Gilkey, (5-11, 190, Sr.) Grand View (Iowa)

Specialists

K	Cameron Golob, (5-11, 180, So.) Faulkner (Ala.)
P	Matt Klingler, (6-1, 235, Sr.) St. Ambrose (Iowa)

Expect Carroll Saints to march in and end three-year run of first-time champs

BY WILL LONG | *Assistant Editor*

With Grand View (Iowa) defeating Cumberlands (Ky.) in last season's national championship game, the NAIA had a first-time champion for the third consecutive season. And while the Vikings have enough returning personnel to repeat in 2014, this year is shaping up to be an intriguing one. There are several teams–Carroll (Mont.), Morningside (Iowa) and Saint Xavier (Ill.), for example–capable of dethroning Grand View. And while any of these is capable of winning it all, there is no clear-cut favorite to take home the 59th NAIA football title.

The **Carroll (Mont.)** Fighting Saints are poised to challenge for their first national title since 2010. Led by running back Dustin Rinker, a *Sporting News* preseason All-America selection, and eight returning starters, the Saints' offense should continue to score big numbers. Last year, Rinker led the NAIA with 1,960 yards rushing while spearheading the nation's ninth-best ground attack (242.0 yards per game).

Top pass catcher Anthony Clarke returns after snagging 58 receptions for 920 yards and nine scores, helping take the pressure off of Rinker and the ground attack. Clarke's return should help alleviate the loss of quarterback Dakota Stonehouse from an offense that averaged 35.1 points per game.

Carroll's defense was one of the best in the country in 2013, finishing third nationally (16.2 ppg). But only five starters return from that stingy unit, including first-team Frontier Conference selections Sean Condon, Bryan Graupman and Sean Blomquist on the front seven.

Coach Steve Ryan's **Morningside (Iowa)** Mustangs have made 10 consecutive trips to the NAIA playoffs and own 33 wins over the last three seasons. Morningside may have the nation's best offense in 2014 with quarterback Ryan Kasdorf, running back Brandon Wehger and receiver Devin Thomas returning from a unit that finished second nationally in scoring (45.5 ppg). Last season Kasdorf led the nation in passing efficiency (192.5), Wehger rushed for 1,205 yards and Thomas caught 50 passes for 813 yards with seven scores.

The Mustangs were one of the best teams in the trenches in 2013, rushing for 262.1 yards per game and allowing just 114.2 yards a contest on the ground. But Ryan must replace five starters on each side of the ball and he loses the nation's leading receiver, Kyle Schuck, to graduation.

For **Grand View (Iowa)** to repeat as national champs, the Vikings will need their defense to be as stingy as it was a season ago. Grand View never allowed more than 24 points in a game en route to winning its first national title, leading the nation with 56 sacks along the way. After allowing just 273.4 yards and 15.4 points per game, the defense is almost assuredly going to take a small step back. That puts the onus on an offense that averaged 456.4 yards and 37.4 points per game.

There is plenty of firepower for the Vikings, starting with quarterback Derek Fulton. The dual-threat QB passed for 3,455 yards and 35 touchdowns while also rushing for 707 yards and five more scores. And he will throw to wideout Brady Roland, who caught 83 passes for 1,336 yards and 14 touchdowns last season.

Saint Xavier (Ill.) coach Mike Feminis is hoping experience can help the Cougars return to the title game for the first time since 2011. Nine starters return on offense, including wide receiver Nick DeBenedetti, who accounted for 169.7 all-purpose yards per game. Seven starters are back on a defense that must improve on the 29.3 points per game it allowed last season. Stellar defensive back Mark Williams returns after receiving a medical redshirt for a back injury last season.

Last season, coach Mike Grossner's **Baker (Kan.)** Wildcats won their first Heartland of America Athletic Conference title and first playoff game since 1993. The Wildcats return do-everything wideout Clarence Clark, who rushed for 109 yards, caught 40 passes for 840 yards and made 17 of 26 field goal attempts, including a 59-yarder. The defense, which allowed 19.0 points per game, returns six players who earned all-conference honors in 2013.

Four starters return for the nation's top defense at **Missouri Valley**. Defensive lineman Ty Phillips, a *Sporting News* preseason All-America selection, will lead the Vikings, who allowed just 12.8 points and 225.8 yards per game in 2013. The Vikings' offense returns 10 starters and will need to carry the load early.

With 14 returning starters, **Ottawa (Kan.)** will challenge for the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference title in 2014. The Braves return defensive lineman Deron Bruce, who led the nation with 28.5 tackles for loss.

Faulkner (Ala.) returns 13 starters from last season's 9-3 team, but the Eagles must replace quarterback Josh Hollingsworth, who ended his career in the top five all-time in passing and total offense in NAIA history.

Sophomore Adam Craig returns to pilot the triple-option attack at **Cumberlands (Ky.)**. He passed for 1,365 yards and rushed for 1,251 while accounting for 38 total touchdowns last year.

The **Benedictine (Kan.)** Ravens return just five starters on each side of the ball, but receivers Christian Haack and Jerrin Walton should help them challenge for the Heartland of America Conference title.

LAKE: JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Kyler Murray

Sporting News Class of 2015 All-America Team

An undersized quarterback from Texas highlights our listing of America's best prep seniors, but the state of Florida sets the pace, per usual, with nine total selections.

BY JC SHURBURTT | *247Sports*

Our Class of 2015 All-America Team was picked based on the combination of high school production and college projection. In other words, you had to be a major college prospect to be considered and then it came down to what happened on the field on Friday nights this past season.

The state of Florida leads the way with nine selections, followed by Texas with eight, California with five (it's a quarterback-heavy recruiting cycle in the Golden State and there were limited spots at that position), Georgia with four, Ohio and Mississippi with three each and Michigan with two.

The first-team quarterback is one of the most dynamic players at the position in the past decade. He stands 5-11 (Russell Wilson, anyone?), so his recruit ranking will likely never be No. 1, but for a straight-up high school Player of the Year, you would be hard-pressed to beat Kyler Murray of Allen, Texas.

FIRST TEAM: OFFENSE

QB: KYLER MURRAY, Allen (Texas)

One of the most dynamic players in the country, Murray electrified Texas high school crowds during his junior season, passing for 3,669 yards and 46 touchdowns while rushing for 1,274 yards and 19 scores in leading his high school to the 5A state championship. The 5-11 Murray would contend for top prospect honors in this class if he were taller, but there's no doubt he's an elite high school player. Texas A&M, where his father Kevin played, is the team to beat in his recruitment. Murray will play in the Under Armour All-America Game.

RB: DAMIEN HARRIS,
Berea (Ky.) Madison South

Harris, a consensus top-three running back prospect in the 2015 class, rushed for 2,621 yards and 42 touchdowns during his junior season. He runs a legitimate 4.4-second 40-yard dash and has an early invite to the Under Armour All-America Game. Harris is a major target for programs like Michigan, Ohio State, Alabama and, particularly, in-state Kentucky.

RB: JACQUES PATRICK,
Orlando (Fla.) Timber Creek

The 6-2, 220-pound Patrick has been a high-level prospect since his freshman season, earning major offers from programs like Florida State and Florida as a rising sophomore. He averaged more than 200 yards per game (2,153 total) in 2013 and is a top-75 prospect, according to the 247Sports Composite rankings. He is a U.S. Army All-American Bowl and Under Armour All-America Game selection.

OL: MITCH HYATT,
Suwanee (Ga.) North Gwinnett

With a rare blend of polish and athletic upside, Hyatt is one of the top two tackles in the 2015 class based on the 247Sports Composite rankings. The Clemson commit stands 6-5 and 271 pounds and has the frame to play at 300-plus pounds without losing any ability to move. Hyatt is a U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection.

OL: MARTEZ IVEY, Apopka (Fla.)

Like Hyatt, Ivey is one of

MURRAY (2): MATT STRASEN / AP

two elite prospects at offensive tackle in the 2015 class and has been a star player for one of central Florida's top programs for the last two seasons. The 6-6, 280-pound Ivey is a U.S. Army All-American Bowl and Under Armour All-America Game selection and should be on any All-State team from Florida. Florida is the early team to beat in his recruitment, but he can go anywhere he wants.

OL: MAEA TEUHEMA, Keller (Texas)
Teuhema, who is committed to LSU (where his brother signed in the 2014 class), is a massive, 6-4, 346-pound offensive tackle who has an elite ability to move for a player his size. Teuhema had 91 knockdown blocks during his junior season and is a U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection. He will likely play guard in the NFL one day.

OL: JALIN BARNETT, Lawton (Okla.)
Barnett is one of the best offensive linemen to come out of the state of Oklahoma in recent memory. The 6-4, 315-pounder projects long-term as a guard (he's the top prospect at that position in this class), but could easily be a tackle in college because of his athletic ability. Barnett, an Under Armour All-America Game selection, has a slew of offers and is a priority for the in-state Sooners, Alabama and others.

OL: RICHIE PETITBON,
Washington (D.C.) Gonzaga
The grandson of the former NFL head coach and All-Pro with the same name, Petitbon came into his own during his junior campaign after gaining 30-plus pounds of muscle during the offseason. Petitbon was a second-team All-Met selection by the Washington Post and is at or near the top of the board for offensive linemen for programs like Alabama and Penn State.

TE: CHRIS CLARK, Avon (Conn.) Old Farms
Clark is a massive target at 6-6 and 247 pounds and the Under Armour All-America Game selection has scholarship offers from nearly every major program in the country. He is a consensus top-five prospect at tight end and caught 39 passes for 417 yards and six touchdowns during his junior season.

WR: DAMARKUS LODGE, Cedar Hill (Texas)
There aren't many receivers across the country as smooth as Lodge, who caught 70 passes during his junior year for more than 1,200 yards. The 6-3, 190-pounder is the top receiver prospect in the 2015 class based on the 247Sports Composite rankings and is an Under Armour All-America Game selection. Baylor, Texas A&M, Texas and Ohio State, among others, are in the mix for his talents.

WR: PRESTON WILLIAMS,
Hampton (Ga.) Lovejoy
Nicknamed "The Show", Williams is a 6-4, 190-pounder with excellent speed and leaping ability. He caught 59 passes for 1,388 yards and 14 touchdowns for Lovejoy High, in the Atlanta area, as a junior and committed early to Tennessee. Several other programs–mostly from the SEC, including Georgia, Florida and South Carolina–are trying to flip him from his pledge to the Vols. Williams is a U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection.

WR: CHRISTIAN KIRK,
Scottsdale (Ariz.) Saguaro
Kirk is one of the best skill-position talents to ever come out of the Grand Canyon State. The 5-11, 197-pounder is a five-star prospect, according to the 247Sports Composite rankings, and had 65 receptions for 1,164 yards and 17 touchdowns last season. Multiple college coaching staffs consider him the one "must-get" receiver prospect in the West during this recruiting cycle. He has already received an invite to the Under Armour All-America Game and the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

ATH: NYHEIM HINES, Garner (N.C.)
With a sub-4.4-second 40 time, Hines is one of the fastest prospects in the country. Oh, and he's pretty good at football, too. He totaled more than 3,000 yards as a junior and scored an eye-popping 62 touchdowns. Hines is a top-200 prospect nationally, according to the 247Sports Composite rankings, and could potentially project at as many as four positions in college. He's a big in-state target for North Carolina and has dozens of scholarship offers.

FIRST TEAM: DEFENSE

DL: TRENT THOMPSON,
Albany (Ga.) Westover
As of March, Thompson was the No. 1 overall prospect for the 2015 class based on the 247Sports Composite rankings. The cat-quick 6-4, 292-pound tackle had 83 tackles and 12 sacks during his junior season and has been selected to both the U.S. Army All-American Bowl and the Under Armour All-America Game. Thompson has his choice of offers and is expected to end up in the SEC, at this point committing to in-state Georgia.

DL: JOSH SWEAT,
Chesapeake (Va.) Oscar Smith
During his first full season as a varsity starter, the 6-5, 230-pound Sweat emerged as one of the top overall prospects in the country, totaling 94 tackles and 22 sacks, thus topping the output of his teammate, Virginia defensive tackle and five-star 2014 prospect Andrew Brown. Sweat is an elite athlete, posting one of the highest Nike SPARQ testing scores (used to measure athleticism) in the country at 128.1 in February. Virginia Tech, Florida State, Tennessee and a host of other schools are in the mix. Sweat is an Under Armour All-America Game selection.

DL: DAYLON MACK, Gladewater (Texas)
Mack, an early commit to Texas A&M, is a dominant high school player at defensive tackle and a consensus top-five prospect at that stacked position nationally. As powerful as he is quick, the 6-2, 310-pound Mack had a staggering 36 tackles for loss during his junior season. Mack is a U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection.

DL: CECE JEFFERSON,
Glen Saint Mary (Fla.) Baker County
Jefferson is one of the top pass-rushing prospects in the country, totaling 17 sacks during his junior season. The 6-2, 250-pounder has elite quickness and strength and is a top-five prospect at defensive end nationally for 2015, according to the 247Sports Composite rankings. Jefferson has been selected to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, one of the first players invited to the game.

LB: MALIK JEFFERSON,
Mesquite (Texas) Poteet
Jefferson, a top-three prospect at outside linebacker nationally, according to the 247Sports Composite rankings, has an excellent frame at 6-3 and 215 pounds and can run. Many longtime observers of Texas high school football believe he is the top prospect in the Lone Star State this cycle–and it's a loaded one. Jefferson had 83 total tackles and 12 sacks during his junior campaign. Texas A&M, Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma, Baylor, Ohio State and a host of other programs are lining up for him. He has been selected to both the Under Armour All-America Game and U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

LB: JOHN HOUSTON, Gardena (Calif.) Serra

On a high school team that is loaded with elite players and Division 1 talent, Houston may be the best. The 6-3, 211-pounder has a great linebacker frame and all of the attributes you want in a great prospect at the position–but he's also a hard-hitting player who had 137 tackles last season. Southern Cal is the local favorite here, but the entire country is coming in for him and he's not likely to be an early commit. Houston has been invited to both the U.S. Army All-American Bowl and the Under Armour All-America Game.

LB: JUSTIN HILLIARD, Cincinnati St. Xavier

Hilliard is as impressive as they come on film and the 6-2, 230-pounder averaged nearly eight tackles per game during his junior year. Nearly three-dozen programs have issued scholarship offers and he has been selected to play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Look out for Iowa in his recruitment, as his brother C.J. plays for the Hawkeyes, signing there with the 2014 class as a running back. Ohio State, Notre Dame, Alabama, Oklahoma and a host of others are also in the mix.

LB: JEFFERY HOLLAND, Jacksonville (Fla.) Trinity Christian

Holland has elite quickness and athleticism (he's a forward on his high school's basketball team) and is a top-50 overall prospect in the 2015 class based on the 247Sports Composite rankings. He tallied 50 tackles on a star-studded defense last season, when his team blew out the competition in a slew of games. Holland is an Under Armour All-America Game selection and has more than 30 scholarship offers. Florida and Auburn look to be the two biggest players at this point for the 6-2, 230-pounder.

DB: IMAN MARSHALL, Long Beach (Calif.) Poly

Appropriately nicknamed "Biggie," Marshall is a solid 6-1, 200-pound cornerback who has had a legendary high school career thus far at powerhouse Poly. There's talk that he did not allow a pass to be completed against him for the entire 2013 season, which is amazing. Watching his film, that's not a surprise as he's elite in coverage. Marshall averaged nine tackles per game last season, is an invite to both the Under Armour All-America Game and U.S. Army All-American Bowl and has scholarship offers from coast-to-coast. He's as elite as they come and a huge target for USC during this recruiting cycle.

DB: KEVIN TOLIVER II, Jacksonville (Fla.) Trinity Christian

Holland's teammate, Toliver, is a rare blend of size, speed, toughness and instincts at cornerback. An early commit to LSU, Toliver had 36 tackles and eight pass breakups last season and is a top-10 prospect overall nationally according to the 247Sports Composite rankings. His early pledge to the Tigers has not kept other schools away, as Florida and others are pushing. Toliver is an Under Armour All-America Game selection.

DB: MINKAH FITZPATRICK, Jersey City (N.J.) St. Peter's Prep

At 6-0 and 185 pounds, Fitzpatrick is yet another elite cornerback prospect with size who plays for one of the top talent-producing programs in New Jersey. Last season, he shined on both sides of the ball, averaging nearly 10 yards per touch on offense as well as locking down coverage on defense. Fitzpatrick is a top-five cornerback prospect for 2015, according to the 247Sports Composite rankings, and has nearly 30 offers to his credit, including Alabama, Florida State, Ohio State and others.

DB: DERWIN JAMES, Haines City (Fla.)

James, who has been on All-America lists since his sophomore season, was one of only a handful of underclassmen invited to Nike's prestigious summer all-star event, "The Opening," last summer. He may be the best safety prospect in the country. The 6-2, 201-pound Florida State commit (he has the Seminoles' logo tattooed on his arm) has big-time ball skills and instincts to go along with his size/speed combination. He's a five-star prospect, according to the 247Sports Composite rankings.

ATH: KENDALL SHEFFIELD, Missouri City (Texas) Fort Bend Marshall

It's all about speed and being a big-time playmaker for Sheffield. The 5-11, 180-pounder has been timed at under 4.4 seconds in the 40-yard dash and posted a state-best 13.85-second 100-meter hurdles time on the track last spring (a top-10 time in the country). Sheffield has been invited to both the Under Armour All-America Game and the U.S. Army All-American Bowl and has a national offer list. Texas A&M is considered the front-runner as of this writing.

SECOND TEAM: OFFENSE

QB: JOSH ROSEN, Bellflower (Calif.)

St. John Bosco Rosen, who is a five-star prospect based on the 247Sports Composite rankings, threw for 3,200 yards and 39 touchdowns last season and led his team to a state title. He's expected to sign with UCLA.

RB: MICHAEL WEBER, Detroit Cass Tech

Weber is a four-star 247Sports Composite prospect who has rushed for 3,359 yards and 45 touchdowns the past two seasons and is considered elite by multiple college staffs. Michigan State and Michigan are the early front-runners.

RB: RONALD JONES, McKinney (Texas) North

Jones is a four-star 247Sports Composite prospect who piled up 2,406 yards and 39 touchdowns last season. Baylor, Oklahoma and a host of others have offered.

OL: CHUMA EDOGA, Powder Springs (Ga.) McEachern

The 6-4, 290-pound Edoga has elite footwork and, like first-team choice Jalin Barnett, could play tackle or guard in college (guard is the long-term projection). The entire SEC and most of the country has offered the 247Sports Composite four-star prospect and U.S. Army All-American.

OL: JAVON PATTERSON, Petal (Miss.) Patterson

The 6-4, 290-pound Patterson is a U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection and a candidate to make the prestigious "Dandy Dozen" list of the Magnolia State's best players that's published annually by *The Clarion-Ledger* of Jackson, Miss. Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Alabama and others are beating down his door.

OL: TRISTEN HOGE, Pocatello (Idaho) Highland

Hoge is the nephew of former NFL running back Merrill Hoge and the 6-6, 290-pound Notre Dame commit is athletic, tough and a true center–which makes him elite. Hoge was one of the first selections for the 2015 U.S. Army All-American Bowl and his prep team reached the state title game last season.

OL: JAKE FRUHMORGEN, Tampa (Fla.) Plant

Fruhmorgen is the latest big-time prospect to come out of Tampa powerhouse Plant High. The 6-5, 280-pounder is a U.S. Army All-American and his father played for Alabama and the Miami Dolphins. He committed to Clemson in April.

OL: TREVOR ELBERT, Rockwall (Texas)
Elbert is nearly college-ready thanks in large part to his versatility (he can play all five positions on the offensive line) and polish. A four-star 247Sports Composite prospect, Elbert committed to Texas A&M over Texas and others on Jan. 26.

TE: HALE HENTGES, Jefferson City (Mo.) Helias
Hentges is a four-star 247Sports Composite prospect and holds offers from across the country, including in-state Missouri, which is the team to beat for his services. The 6-4, 220-pounder caught 61 passes for more than 900 yards during his junior campaign.

WR: CORDELL BROADUS, Las Vegas Bishop Gorman
Broadus caught 60 passes for 685 yards at Diamond Bar (Calif.) last season in an offense that featured multiple Division 1-level athletes. The son of rapper Snoop Dogg then transferred to Bishop Gorman and will play his senior year in Las Vegas. He has offers from coast-to-coast (USC is considered the team to beat) and is a U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection.

WR: K.J. HILL, North Little Rock (Ark.)
Hill, a four-star 247Sports Composite prospect, caught 70 passes for 1,200 yards during his junior season and emerged as one of the top prospects in Arkansas. The home-state Razorbacks and multiple Big 12 and SEC programs are in pursuit.

WR: CALVIN RIDLEY, Pompano Beach (Fla.)
Ridley is one of the fastest prospects in the country and caught 15 touchdown passes last season. Miami, West Virginia and a host of others are in pursuit of the 247Sports Composite four-star prospect.

ATH: KERRYON JOHNSON, Madison (Ala.) Academy
Johnson could end up on either side of the ball and prefers running back, but he has more upside on defense and is an elite-enough talent to have a spot on this team (he had approximately 2,000 yards last season). Alabama, Auburn and Florida State are the three primary programs in the mix.

SECOND TEAM: DEFENSE

DL: JASHON CORNELL, Minneapolis Cretin Derham-Hall
Cornell is a five-star 247Sports Composite prospect and the 6-3, 265-pounder had a stellar 20 tackles for loss last season. Notre Dame is considered the team to beat among the dozens of offers for the Under Armour All-America Game and U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection.

DL: BREIDEN FEHOKO, Honolulu Farrington
A four-star 247Sports Composite prospect, Fehoko had the most productive season of any defensive lineman from Hawaii in 2013, totaling 103 tackles and 24.5 sacks. Coaches from the mainland will be busy in pursuit of the 6-5, 270-pounder this cycle.

DL: TERRY BECKNER, East St. Louis (Ill.)
The 6-4, 270-pounder is a 247Sports Composite five-star prospect and averaged more than 11 tackles per game last season. Beckner, a U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection, holds dozens of scholarship offers and, at press time, USC and LSU were in the best shape, with Missouri, Michigan and Florida State also in the mix.

DL: SHAMEIK BLACKSHEAR, Bluffton (S.C.)
The 6-5, 250-pound Blackshear is an elite pass rusher and a five-star prospect according to 247Sports Composite rankings. He's an early commit to South Carolina, where he hopes to follow in the footsteps of Jadeveon Clowney, and is an Under Armour All-America Game selection.

LB: LEO LEWIS, Brookhaven (Miss.)
Lewis is a four-star 247Sports Composite prospect who had approximately 100 tackles last season. He's a dynamic striker and picks up scholarship offers nearly as soon as schools catch his junior film. Lewis is an Under Armour All-America Game selection and a "Dandy Dozen" candidate as one of the 12 best players in talent-rich Mississippi as chosen by *The Clarion-Ledger* of Jackson, Miss.

LB: SH'MAR KILBY-LANE, Hallandale (Fla.)
The 6-2, 220-pound Kilby-Lane is a U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection and totaled 115 tackles, five sacks and four interceptions during his junior season. He has offers from all over and, at press time, it appeared that Ohio State could sneak him out of south Florida.

LB: KYAHVA TEZINO, Los Angeles Salesian
Tezino isn't the biggest linebacker out there at 6-0 and 190 pounds, but he's a playmaker who totaled 122 tackles as a junior and scored six offensive touchdowns. Most of the Pac-12 has come calling and Arizona, which has a pipeline of sorts to Salesian, is the early team to beat for the 247Sports Composite four-star prospect.

LB: JOSH BARAJAS, Merrillville (Ind.) Andrean
Barajas is a four-star 247Sports Composite prospect and a U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection. He had 92 tackles and five sacks as a junior and is a top-five inside linebacker nationally. Notre Dame is the team to beat for him. Michigan and a host of others have offered.

DB: JAMAL PETERS, Bassville (Miss.)
The 6-3, 200-pound Peters is a top-five safety prospect nationally, according to the 247Sports Composite rankings. The U.S. Army All-American Bowl selection, who had 72 tackles, five sacks and four pass breakups last season, has scholarship offers from Ole Miss, Mississippi State, LSU, Alabama and a host of others.

DB: ERIC GLOVER-WILLIAMS, Canton (Ohio) McKinley
The 5-10, 170-pound Glover-Williams projects as a cornerback, but is quite the offensive weapon for his high school team. He has already committed to Ohio State over a host of additional offers and is a four-star prospect based on the 247Sports Composite rankings.

DB: MARVELL TELL, Encino (Calif.) Crespi
Yet another 247Sports Composite four-star prospect from southern California, Tell had more than 40 solo tackles last season and earned an invitation to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. A host of programs are in pursuit with UCLA the favorite at press time.

DB: SHAUN CRAWFORD, Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward
Crawford, a Michigan commit, is quite an accomplished high school athlete. The four-star 247Sports Composite prospect totaled 82 tackles and five pass breakups as a junior. He's also a standout in the 100 and 200 meters on the track.

ATH: BRIAN COLE, Saginaw (Mich.) Heritage
Cole is an elite 6-2 athlete who projects highest at cornerback or safety, but who could legitimately star on offense as a college freshman. The Under Armour All-America Game selection is a four-star 247Sports Composite prospect. Michigan State and Michigan are strongly in the mix for his services.

2013 D1 Standings

FBS

INDEPENDENTS

	CONFERENCE W	L	PF	PA	OVERALL W	L	PF	PA
Navy	-	-	-	-	9	4	436	317
Notre Dame	-	-	-	-	9	4	354	291
BYU	-	-	-	-	8	5	392	287
Army	-	-	-	-	3	9	293	379
New Mexico State	-	-	-	-	2	10	251	535
Idaho	-	-	-	-	1	11	218	561

AMERICAN ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
UCF	8	0	263	169	12	1	450	277
Louisville	7	1	229	122	12	1	457	158
Cincinnati	6	2	261	173	9	4	417	273
Houston	5	3	209	128	8	5	431	283
SMU	4	4	237	239	5	7	321	400
Connecticut	3	5	175	233	3	9	247	363
Rutgers	3	5	184	272	6	7	345	387
South Florida	2	6	107	192	2	10	165	343
Temple	1	7	207	260	2	10	299	358
Memphis	1	7	153	237	3	9	234	295

ACC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
ATLANTIC								
Florida State	8	0	411	98	14	0	723	170
Clemson	7	1	323	168	11	2	522	288
Syracuse	4	4	124	225	7	6	295	330
Boston College	4	4	214	224	7	6	360	376
Maryland	3	5	161	257	7	6	340	329
Wake Forest	2	6	124	227	4	8	220	289
N.C. State	0	8	135	271	3	9	274	362
COASTAL								
Duke	6	2	258	224	10	4	459	373
Virginia Tech	5	3	182	140	8	5	293	251
Miami (Fla.)	5	3	250	62	9	4	440	348
Georgia Tech	5	3	249	186	7	6	456	297
North Carolina	4	4	225	179	7	6	425	318
Pittsburgh	3	5	179	230	7	6	342	353
Virginia	0	8	132	276	2	10	237	399

BIG TEN

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
LEADERS								
Ohio State	8	0	368	182	12	2	637	317
Wisconsin	6	2	279	129	9	4	453	212
Penn State	4	4	211	256	7	5	344	314
Indiana	3	5	283	335	5	7	461	466
Illinois	1	7	195	326	4	8	356	425
Purdue	0	8	104	314	1	11	179	456
LEGENDS								
Michigan State	8	0	238	88	13	1	411	185
Iowa	5	3	187	157	8	5	342	246
Nebraska	5	3	218	196	9	4	415	323
Minnesota	4	4	150	188	8	5	334	289
Michigan	3	5	253	234	7	6	419	349
Northwestern	1	7	149	230	5	7	314	325

BIG 12

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Baylor	8	1	430	231	11	2	681	306
Oklahoma	7	2	262	215	11	2	427	287
Oklahoma State	7	2	341	199	10	3	508	281
Texas	7	2	274	215	8	5	381	336
Kansas State	5	4	295	226	8	5	432	298
Texas Tech	4	5	293	331	8	5	465	397
West Virginia	2	7	251	339	4	8	316	400
TCU	2	7	188	232	4	8	301	303
Iowa State	2	7	219	356	3	9	298	432
Kansas	1	8	126	335	3	9	184	382

CONFERENCE USA

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
EAST								
Marshall	7	1	376	183	10	4	590	321
East Carolina	6	2	326	190	10	3	522	322
Middle Tennessee	6	2	279	201	8	5	377	341
Florida Atlantic	4	4	218	168	6	6	317	267
UAB	1	7	191	355	2	10	315	525
Southern Miss	1	7	167	341	1	11	205	503
Florida Intl.	1	7	94	257	1	11	117	444
WEST								
Rice	7	1	242	158	10	4	415	342
UTSA	6	2	210	150	7	5	307	316
North Texas	6	2	262	112	9	4	414	231
Tulane	5	3	180	140	7	6	322	278
Louisiana Tech	3	5	163	213	4	8	230	315
Tulsa	2	6	175	257	3	9	253	407
UTEP	1	7	135	293	2	10	261	472

MID-AMERICAN

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
EAST								
Bowling Green	7	1	301	88	10	4	487	222
Buffalo	6	2	270	123	8	5	394	317
Ohio	4	4	230	219	7	6	356	357
Akron	4	4	146	209	5	7	242	343
Kent State	3	5	198	196	4	8	249	323
Massachusetts	1	7	112	266	1	11	140	396
Miami (OH)	0	8	82	271	0	12	117	428
WEST								
Northern Illinois	8	0	341	158	12	2	555	351
Ball State	7	1	315	195	10	3	501	321
Toledo	5	3	289	216	7	5	396	343
Central Michigan	5	3	211	184	6	6	279	343
Eastern Michigan	1	7	150	395	2	10	226	542
Western Michigan	1	7	150	275	1	11	206	425

MOUNTAIN WEST

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
MOUNTAIN								
Utah State	7	1	283	117	9	5	445	239
Boise State	6	2	316	189	8	5	488	323
Colorado State	5	3	306	211	8	6	507	417
Wyoming	3	5	243	344	5	7	375	440
New Mexico	1	7	245	391	3	9	393	513
Air Force	0	8	196	366	2	10	296	480
WEST								
Fresno State	7	1	366	242	11	2	564	394
San Diego State	6	2	256	256	8	5	387	412
San Jose State	5	3	276	286	6	6	389	421
UNLV	5	3	270	241	7	6	389	414
Nevada	3	5	237	258	4	8	323	413
Hawaii	0	8	225	318	1	11	329	465

PAC-12

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
NORTH								
Stanford	7	2	299	175	11	3	452	266
Oregon	7	2	377	232	11	2	591	266
Washington	5	4	334	251	9	4	493	297
Oregon State	4	5	301	292	7	6	452	408
Washington State	4	5	244	334	6	7	403	423
California	0	9	175	425	1	11	276	551
SOUTH								
Arizona State	8	1	398	231	10	4	556	373
UCLA	6	3	280	235	10	3	480	301
USC	6	3	279	229	10	4	416	297
Arizona	4	5	262	270	8	5	435	315
Utah	2	7	230	290	5	7	350	336
Colorado	1	8	183	398	4	8	305	459

SEC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
EAST								
Missouri	7	1	283	149	12	2	548	323
South Carolina	6	2	253	178	11	2	443	264
Georgia	5	3	292	254	8	5	477	377
Vanderbilt	4	4	213	241	9	4	391	320
Florida	3	5	159	163	4	8	226	253
Tennessee	2	6	144	245	5	7	286	348
Kentucky	0	8	118	291	2	10	246	374
WEST								
Auburn	7	1	287	224	12	2	553	346
Alabama	7	1	305	117	11	2	496	181
LSU	5	3	258	199	10	3	465	286
Texas A&M	4	4	307	292	9	4	575	419
Mississippi State	3	5	179	237	7	6	360	299
Ole Miss	3	5	180	220	8	5	390	308
Arkansas	0	8	135	303	3	9	248	369

SUN BELT

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Louisiana-Lafayette	5	2	220	169	9	4	439	344
Arkansas State	5	2	211	175	8	5	379	340
Troy	4	3	250	246	6	6	409	431
South Alabama	4	3	215	147	6	6	353	302
Western Kentucky	4	3	217	176	8	4	370	295
Louisiana-Monroe	4	3	177	198	6	6	267	362
Texas State	2	5	151	235	6	6	287	328
Georgia State	0	7	154	249	0	12	225	440

FCS

INDEPENDENTS

	CONFERENCE W	L	PF	PA	OVERALL W	L	PF	PA
Old Dominion	-	-	-	-	8	4	508	408
Abilene Christian	-	-	-	-	6	5	501	282
Incarnate Word	-	-	-	-	6	5	268	295
Monmouth	-	-	-	-	6	6	303	284
Charlotte	-	-	-	-	5	6	367	343

BIG SKY

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Eastern Washington	8	0	338	206	12	3	592	424
Northern Arizona	7	1	228	177	9	3	278	264
Montana	6	2	292	192	10	3	490	298
Cal Poly	5	3	252	144	6	6	342	259
Southern Utah	5	3	135	147	8	5	260	288
Montana State	5	3	259	192	7	5	395	299
UC Davis	5	3	193	169	5	7	227	277
Sacramento State	4	4	242	239	5	7	326	398
Portland State	3	5	248	260	6	6	419	330
North Dakota	2	6	148	271	3	8	262	371
Weber State	1	7	121	274	2	10	190	497
Idaho State	1	7	189	267	3	9	271	399
Northern Colorado	0	8	156	263	1	11	237	375

BIG SOUTH

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Coastal Carolina	4	1	235	130	12	3	615	457
Liberty	4	1	184	90	8	4	447	211
Charleston Southern	3	2	107	142	10	3	313	303
Gardner-Webb	2	3	63	116	7	5	263	276
Presbyterian	1	4	105	163	3	8	258	358
VMI	1	4	113	166	2	10	235	416

COLONIAL

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Maine	7	1	257	169	10	3	387	287
Towson	6	2	280	201	13	3	585	383
New Hampshire	6	2	241	161	10	5	462	345
Villanova	5	3	264	188	6	5	337	245
Richmond	4	4	237	230	6	6	332	286
William & Mary	4	4	143	117	7	5	252	168
Delaware	4	4	244	263	7	5	393	379
Stony Brook	3	5	174	200	5	6	245	242
James Madison	3	5	210	213	6	6	339	289
Rhode Island	2	6	63	247	3	9	159	402
Albany	0	8	133	257	1	11	221	412

IVY LEAGUE

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Princeton	6	1	317	169	8	2	437	246
Harvard	6	1	253	156	9	1	371	227
Dartmouth	5	2	214	124	6	4	286	195
Brown	3	4	194	170	6	4	311	205
Yale	3	4	175	193	5	5	269	277
Pennsylvania	3	4	183	200	4	6	230	283
Cornell	2	5	174	251	3	7	262	353
Columbia	0	7	42	289	0	10	73	402

MEAC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Bethune-Cookman	7	1	243	100	10	3	385	231
South Carolina State	7	1	231	83	9	4	375	198
Morgan State	5	3	191	212	5	7	244	367
Delaware State	5	3	141	159	5	6	169	301
North Carolina A&T	4	4	196	142	7	4	302	185
Howard	4	4	206	190	6	6	316	322
Hampton	4	4	201	215	4	8	261	368
North Carolina Central	3	5	145	224	5	7	225	337
Norfolk State	3	5	126	167	3	9	168	275
Florida A&M	2	6	139	178	3	9	193	318
Savannah State	0	8	128	277	1	11	174	517

MISSOURI VALLEY

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
North Dakota State	8	0	277	96	15	0	581	169
Missouri State	5	3	246	167	5	7	328	276
Youngstown State	5	3	234	219	8	4	405	314
South Dakota State	5	3	218	155	9	5	405	330
Southern Illinois	5	3	204	191	7	5	342	302
Illinois State	4	4	189	200	5	6	272	325
South Dakota	3	5	142	218	4	8	209	309
Northern Iowa	3	5	175	179	7	5	315	226
Western Illinois	2	6	162	221	4	8	257	303
Indiana State	0	8	92	293	1	11	248	431

NORTHEAST

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Sacred Heart	4	2	197	136	10	3	450	277
Duquesne	4	2	114	110	7	4	246	253
St. Francis (Pa.)	3	3	116	102	5	6	239	240
Robert Morris	3	3	143	123	5	6	240	262
Bryant	3	3	169	161	5	7	287	302
Central Conn. State	2	4	184	212	4	8	337	425
Wagner	2	4	98	177	3	8	182	366

OHIO VALLEY

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Eastern Illinois	8	0	409	137	12	2	675	319
Tennessee State	6	2	205	161	10	4	381	253
Jacksonville State	5	3	290	213	11	4	528	354
Tennessee-Martin	5	3	208	202	7	5	283	330
Murray State	4	4	213	224	6	6	358	382
Eastern Kentucky	4	4	188	180	6	6	321	305
Tennessee Tech	2	6	182	234	5	7	313	353
SE Missouri State	2	6	186	294	3	9	262	441
Austin Peay	0	8	77	313	0	12	90	476

PATRIOT LEAGUE

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Lafayette	4	1	191	113	5	7	318	336
Bucknell	3	2	127	106	6	5	240	241
Lehigh	3	2	148	156	8	3	348	342
Colgate	3	2	111	121	4	8	266	391
Georgetown	1	4	100	162	2	9	227	368
Holy Cross	1	4	139	158	3	9	324	367
Fordham	-	-	-	-	12	2	526	355

PIONEER LEAGUE

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Butler	7	1	316	181	9	4	433	349
San Diego	7	1	356	135	8	3	430	250
Marist	7	1	300	139	8	3	378	226
Mercer	6	2	261	229	10	2	459	287
Drake	5	3	213	135	6	5	274	215
Dayton	5	3	281	200	7	4	335	262
Jacksonville	4	4	343	260	5	6	460	375
Morehead State	3	5	209	359	3	9	273	556
Campbell	2	6	262	306	3	9	349	451
Stetson	1	7	117	288	2	9	195	360
Valparaiso	1	7	154	354	1	10	229	493
Davidson	0	8	108	334	0	11	154	445

SOUTHERN

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Furman	6	2	195	151	8	6	318	340
Samford	6	2	267	203	8	5	391	364
Chattanooga	6	2	211	141	8	4	316	245
Wofford	4	4	175	188	5	6	233	274
Appalachian State	4	4	226	210	4	8	283	336
Georgia Southern	4	4	206	209	7	4	368	255
Citadel	4	4	194	186	5	7	318	339
Western Carolina	1	7	175	292	2	10	235	467
Elon	1	7	171	240	2	10	258	393

SOUTHLAND

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
SE Louisiana	7	0	334	156	11	3	538	318
McNeese State	6	1	306	215	10	3	520	370
Central Arkansas	4	3	245	244	7	5	398	326
Sam Houston State	4	3	238	200	9	5	576	387
Northwestern State	3	4	178	240	6	6	330	389
Lamar	2	5	229	254	5	7	401	356
Stephen F. Austin	1	6	259	374	3	9	462	592
Nicholls State	1	6	199	305	4	8	322	520

SWAC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
EAST								
Jackson State	8	1	262	200	7	4	312	294
Alabama State	7	2	324	209	8	4	401	309
Alcorn State	7	2	314	231	9	3	441	294
Alabama A&M	4	5	183	212	4	8	197	333
Miss. Valley State	2	7	179	259	2	9	203	310
WEST								
Southern	7	2	282	236	9	4	396	380
Prairie View A&M	5	4	364	290	6	6	468	431
Texas Southern	2	7	150	234	2	9	173	329
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	2	7	285	326	2	9	310	446
Grambling State	1	8	156	302	1	10	216	424

2013 NCAA FBS Stats

courtesy of NCAA

Individual Leaders

PASSING EFFICIENCY *(MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)*

	Year	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	RATING
Jameis Winston, Florida State	FR	14	384	257	66.9	10	2.60	4057	10.57	40	10.42	184.8
Bryce Petty, Baylor	JR	13	403	250	62.0	3	0.74	4200	10.42	32	7.94	174.3
Johnny Manziel, Texas A&M	SO	13	429	300	69.9	13	3.03	4114	9.59	37	8.62	172.9
Zach Mettenberger, LSU	SR	12	296	192	64.9	8	2.70	3082	10.41	22	7.43	171.4
Teddy Bridgewater, Louisville	JR	13	427	303	71.0	4	0.94	3970	9.30	31	7.26	171.1
Tajh Boyd, Clemson	SR	13	413	283	68.5	11	2.66	3851	9.32	34	8.23	168.7
Marcus Mariota, Oregon	SO	13	386	245	63.5	4	1.04	3665	9.49	31	8.03	167.7
A.J. McCarron, Alabama	SR	13	336	226	67.3	7	2.08	3063	9.12	28	8.33	167.2
Blake Bortles, UCF	JR	13	382	259	67.8	9	2.36	3581	9.37	25	6.54	163.4
Connor Shaw, South Carolina	SR	13	284	180	63.4	1	0.35	2447	8.62	24	8.45	162.9
Matt Johnson, Bowling Green	SO	14	369	237	64.2	7	1.90	3467	9.40	25	6.78	161.7
Aaron Murray, Georgia	SR	11	347	225	64.8	9	2.59	3075	8.86	26	7.49	158.8
Braxton Miller, Ohio State	JR	12	255	162	63.5	7	2.75	2094	8.21	24	9.41	158.1
Jake Waters, Kansas State	JR	13	260	159	61.2	9	3.46	2469	9.50	18	6.92	156.8
Derek Carr, Fresno State	SR	13	659	453	68.7	8	1.21	5082	7.71	50	7.59	156.1
Keith Wenning, Ball State	SR	13	498	319	64.1	7	1.41	4148	8.33	35	7.03	154.4
Terrence Broadway, Louisiana-Lafayette	JR	12	266	166	62.4	12	4.51	2419	9.09	19	7.14	153.3
David Fales, San Jose State	SR	12	487	312	64.1	13	2.67	4189	8.60	33	6.78	153.3
Keith Price, Washington	SR	12	352	233	66.2	6	1.70	2966	8.43	21	5.97	153.3
Brett Hundley, UCLA	SO	13	371	248	66.8	9	2.43	3071	8.28	24	6.47	152.9
Kevin Hogan, Stanford	JR	14	295	180	61.0	10	3.39	2630	8.92	20	6.78	151.5
P.J. Walker, Temple	FR	9	250	152	60.8	8	3.20	2084	8.34	20	8.00	150.8
Grant Hedrick, Boise State	JR	13	242	167	69.0	5	2.07	1825	7.54	16	6.61	150.0

TOTAL OFFENSE

			RUSHING				*PASSING*		*TOTAL OFFENSE*			
	YEAR	G	CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PLAY	YDS/G
Derek Carr, Fresno State	SR	13	40	194	77	117	659	5083	699	5200	7.44	399.9
Garrett Gilbert, SMU	SR	10	83	424	157	267	504	3528	587	3795	6.47	379.5
Johnny Manziel, Texas A&M	SO	13	144	923	164	759	429	4114	573	4873	8.50	374.8
David Fales, San Jose State	SR	12	48	155	148	7	487	4189	535	4196	7.84	349.7
Jordan Lynch, Northern Illinois	SR	14	292	2025	105	1920	404	2892	696	4812	6.91	343.7
Sean Mannion, Oregon State	JR	13	34	15	238	-223	603	4662	637	4439	6.97	341.5
Connor Halliday, Washington State	JR	13	50	66	243	-177	714	4597	764	4420	5.79	340.0
Bryce Petty, Baylor	JR	13	94	339	130	209	403	4200	497	4409	8.87	339.2
Marcus Mariota, Oregon	SO	13	168	1067	29	1038	386	3665	482	4380	9.09	336.9
Taysom Hill, BYU	SO	13	246	1595	251	1344	438	2938	684	4282	6.26	329.4
Brett Smith, Wyoming	JR	12	128	814	241	573	467	3375	592	3948	6.67	329.0
Cody Fajardo, Nevada	JR	10	141	775	154	621	358	2668	499	3289	6.59	328.9
Tajh Boyd, Clemson	SR	13	154	634	234	400	413	3851	567	4251	7.50	327.0
Shane Carden, East Carolina	JR	13	90	302	199	103	549	4139	639	4242	6.64	326.3
Keith Wenning, Ball State	SR	13	45	132	88	44	498	4148	543	4192	7.72	322.5
Teddy Bridgewater, Louisville	JR	13	63	262	184	78	427	3970	490	4048	8.26	311.4
Jameis Winston, Florida State	FR	14	88	412	193	219	384	4057	472	4276	9.06	305.4
Taylor Kelly, Arizona State	JR	14	173	852	244	608	484	3635	657	4243	6.46	303.1
Rakeem Cato, Marshall	JR	14	99	495	201	294	499	3916	598	4210	7.04	300.7
Aaron Murray, Georgia	SR	11	53	275	89	186	347	3075	400	3261	8.15	296.5
Blake Bortles, UCF	JR	13	87	459	187	272	382	3581	469	3853	8.22	296.4
Nathan Scheelhaase, Illinois	SR	12	113	522	251	271	430	3272	543	3543	6.52	295.3
Brett Hundley, UCLA	SO	13	160	970	222	748	371	3071	531	3819	7.19	293.8

ALL-PURPOSE YARDAGE

	YEAR	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KR	INT RET	MISC	YDS	YDS/G
Antonio Andrews, Western Kentucky	SR	12	1730	478	97	314	0	0	2619	218.25
Odell Beckham Jr., LSU	JR	13	58	1152	160	845	0	100	2315	178.08
Marion Grice, Arizona State	SR	11	996	438	0	507	0	0	1941	176.45
Ka'Deem Carey, Arizona	JR	12	1885	173	0	0	0	0	2058	171.50
Trey Watts, Tulsa	SR	12	1329	395	147	186	0	0	2057	171.42
Tre Mason, Auburn	JR	14	1816	163	0	395	0	0	2374	169.57
Andre Williams, Boston College	SR	13	2177	0	0	0	0	0	2177	167.46
Bishop Sankey, Washington	JR	13	1870	304	0	0	0	0	2174	167.23
Ty Montgomery, Stanford	JR	14	159	958	0	1091	0	0	2208	157.71
Jamarcus Nelson, UAB	JR	10	22	846	88	614	0	0	1570	157.00
Brandin Cooks, Oregon State	JR	13	217	1730	72	0	0	0	2019	155.31
Tyler Lockett, Kansas State	JR	12	10	1262	4	583	0	0	1859	154.92
Ameer Abdullah, Nebraska	JR	13	1690	232	0	77	0	0	1999	153.77
Carlos Hyde, Ohio State	SR	11	1521	147	0	0	0	0	1668	151.64
Brelan Chancellor, North Texas	SR	13	123	792	386	663	0	0	1964	151.08
David Fluellen, Toledo	SR	9	1121	222	0	0	0	0	1343	149.22
Khalfani Muhammad, California	FR	11	445	187	0	1006	0	0	1638	148.91
Todd Gurley, Georgia	SO	10	989	441	0	0	0	0	1430	143.00
Branden Oliver, Buffalo	SR	12	1535	173	0	0	0	0	1708	142.33
Carlos Wiggins, New Mexico	SO	12	237	163	0	1303	0	0	1703	141.92
Tevin Coleman, Indiana	SO	9	958	193	0	124	0	0	1275	141.67
Jordan Lynch, Northern Illinois	SR	14	1920	17	0	0	0	0	1937	138.36
Bernard Reedy, Toledo	SR	12	15	840	97	690	0	0	1642	136.83

Jameis Winston
184.8 Pass Efficiency Rating

RECEIVING YARDS

	YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	YDS/G
Brandin Cooks, Oregon State	JR	13	128	1730	16	133.08
Davante Adams, Fresno State	SO	13	131	1718	24	132.15
Allen Robinson, Penn State	JR	12	97	1432	6	119.33
Willie Snead, Ball State	JR	13	106	1516	15	116.62
Jordan Matthews, Vanderbilt	SR	13	112	1477	7	113.62
Chandler Jones, San Jose State	SR	12	79	1356	15	113.00
Sammy Watkins, Clemson	JR	13	101	1464	12	112.62
Paul Richardson, Colorado	JR	12	83	1343	10	111.92
Mike Evans, Texas A&M	SO	13	69	1394	12	107.23
Jeremy Gallon, Michigan	SR	13	89	1373	9	105.62
Tyler Lockett, Kansas State	JR	12	81	1262	11	105.17
Jace Amaro, Texas Tech	JR	13	106	1352	7	104.00
Antwan Goodley, Baylor	JR	13	71	1339	13	103.00
Titus Davis, Central Michigan	JR	11	61	1109	8	100.82
Deontay Greenberry, Houston	SO	12	82	1202	11	100.17

INTERCEPTIONS

	YEAR	G	INT	YDS	TD	INT/G
Anthony Harris, Virginia	JR	12	8	42	0	.67
Bobby McCain, Memphis	JR	9	6	108	2	.67
D'Joun Smith, Florida Atlantic	JR	12	7	112	1	.58
Lorenzo Doss, Tulane	SO	13	7	185	2	.54
Justin Gilbert, Oklahoma State	SR	13	7	123	2	.54
Derron Smith, Fresno State	JR	13	7	135	1	.54
Ricardo Allen, Purdue	SR	12	6	42	0	.50
Jimmie Ward, Northern Illinois	SR	14	7	102	1	.50
Deone Bucannon, Washington State	SR	13	6	110	0	.46
Blake Countess, Michigan	SO	13	6	169	1	.46
Donte Deayon, Boise State	SO	13	6	15	0	.46
Kendall Fuller, Virginia Tech	FR	13	6	1	0	.46
Adrian McDonald, Houston	SO	13	6	76	0	.46
Steven Nelson, Oregon State	JR	13	6	26	1	.46
Cody Prewitt, Ole Miss	JR	13	6	52	0	.46
Rashaad Reynolds, Oregon State	SR	13	6	69	0	.46

SCORING

	YEAR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PTS/G
Keenan Reynolds, Navy	SO	13	31	0	0	188	14.46
Kapri Bibbs, Colorado State	SO	14	31	0	0	186	13.29
Roberto Aguayo, Florida State	FR	14	0	94	21	157	11.21
Davante Adams, Fresno State	SO	13	24	0	0	144	11.08
Marion Grice, Arizona State	SR	11	20	0	0	120	10.91
Tre Mason, Auburn	JR	14	25	0	0	150	10.71
Jordan Lynch, Northern Illinois	SR	14	24	0	0	144	10.29
Marshall Morgan, Georgia	SO	11	0	47	22	113	10.27
Ka'Deem Carey, Arizona	JR	12	20	0	0	120	10.00
Zane Gonzalez, Arizona State	FR	14	0	63	25	138	9.86
Carlos Hyde, Ohio State	SR	11	18	0	0	108	9.82
Bishop Sankey, Washington	JR	13	21	0	0	126	9.69
Mike Hunnicutt, Oklahoma	JR	13	1	47	24	128	9.85
Todd Gurley, Georgia	SO	10	16	0	0	96	9.60
Aaron Jones, Baylor	SR	13	0	82	14	124	9.54

RUSHING

	YEAR	G	CAR	YDS	TD	AVG	YDS/G
Andre Williams, Boston College	SR	13	355	2177	18	6.13	167.5
Ka'Deem Carey, Arizona	JR	12	349	1885	19	5.40	157.1
Antonio Andrews, Western Kentucky	SR	12	267	1730	16	6.48	144.2
Bishop Sankey, Washington	JR	13	327	1870	20	5.72	143.8
Carlos Hyde, Ohio State	SR	11	208	1521	15	7.31	138.3
Jordan Lynch, Northern Illinois	SR	14	292	1920	23	6.58	137.1
Ameer Abdullah, Nebraska	JR	13	281	1690	9	6.01	130.0
Tre Mason, Auburn	JR	14	317	1816	23	5.73	129.7
Branden Oliver, Buffalo	SR	12	310	1535	15	4.95	127.9
David Fluellen, Toledo	SR	9	167	1121	10	6.71	124.6
Kapri Bibbs, Colorado State	SO	14	281	1741	31	6.20	124.4
Melvin Gordon, Wisconsin	SO	13	206	1609	12	7.81	123.8
Tyler Gaffney, Stanford	SR	14	330	1709	21	5.18	122.1
Jeremy Hill, LSU	SO	12	203	1401	16	6.90	116.8
Travis Greene, Bowling Green	SO	14	279	1594	11	5.71	113.9

WINSTON: DAVID J. PHILLIP / AP

SACKS

	YEAR	G	SOLO	AST	YDS	TOTAL	SACKS/G
Marcus Smith, Louisville	SR	13	14	1	115	14.5	1.12
Trent Murphy, Stanford	SR	14	14	2	119	15.0	1.07
Vic Beasley, Clemson	JR	13	13	0	96	13.0	1.00
Jackson Jeffcoat, Texas	SR	13	13	0	75	13.0	1.00
Hau'Oli Kikaha, Washington	JR	13	12	2	82	13.0	1.00
Jeremiah Attaochu, Georgia Tech	SR	13	12	1	86	12.5	.96
Martin Ifedi, Memphis	JR	12	11	1	62	11.5	.96
Ryan Mueller, Kansas State	JR	13	11	1	66	11.5	.88
Kareem Martin, North Carolina	SR	13	10	3	85	11.5	.88
Dee Ford, Auburn	SR	12	10	1	96	10.5	.88
Demarcus Lawrence, Boise State	JR	12	10	1	75	10.5	.88
Shaquil Barrett, Colorado State	SR	14	11	2	77	12.0	.86
Aaron Donald, Pittsburgh	SR	13	11	0	84	11.0	.85
Michael Sam, Missouri	SR	14	11	1	71	11.5	.82
Randy Gregory, Nebraska	SO	13	10	1	69	10.5	.81
Khalil Mack, Buffalo	SR	13	9	3	79	10.5	.81
Kelcy Quarles, South Carolina	JR	12	9	1	91	9.5	.79
Anthony Barr, UCLA	SR	13	10	0	66	10.0	.77

PUNT RETURNS *(MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	G	NO.	YDS	TD	YDS/RET
Ryan Switzer, North Carolina	FR	13	24	502	5	20.92
Nelson Agholor, USC	SO	14	18	343	2	19.06
Chris Davis, Auburn	SR	12	17	318	1	18.71
Josh Stewart, Oklahoma State	JR	12	22	368	2	16.73
Brelan Chancellor, North Texas	SR	13	24	386	1	16.08
Jamison Crowder, Duke	JR	14	25	401	2	16.04
V'Angelo Bentley, Illinois	SO	10	12	189	1	15.75
Kevonte Martin-Manley, Iowa	JR	13	20	314	2	15.70
Jalen Saunders, Oklahoma	SR	13	20	308	2	15.40
Devon Smith, Marshall	SR	14	26	381	1	14.65
Shane Williams-Rhodes, Boise State	SO	11	16	233	0	14.56
Andy Erickson, Texas State	SR	12	20	284	0	14.20
Rashard Smith, N.C. State	SR	11	17	240	2	14.12

PUNTING *(MINIMUM OF 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	G	P	YDS	AVG
Austin Rehkow, Idaho	FR	12	75	3587	47.83
Pat O'Donnell, Miami	SR	13	53	2498	47.13
Zac Murphy, Miami (OH)	SR	12	79	3682	46.61
Justin Manton, Louisiana-Monroe	JR	12	80	3664	45.80
Ben Skaer, New Mexico	SR	10	47	2152	45.79
Spencer Roth, Baylor	JR	12	52	2379	45.75
Tom Hornsey, Memphis	SR	12	62	2800	45.16
Will Scott, Troy	SR	12	56	2494	44.54
Anthony Melchiori, Kent State	SO	9	35	1558	44.51
Chase Tenpenny, Nevada	SR	12	59	2626	44.51
Michael Palardy, Tennessee	SR	12	63	2801	44.46
Tyler Campbell, Ole Miss	SR	13	51	2266	44.43
Sam Irwin-Hill, Arkansas	JR	12	46	2038	44.30

FIELD GOALS

	YEAR	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FGM/G
Marshall Morgan, Georgia	SO	11	24	22	.917	2.00
Jeff Budzien, Northwestern	SR	12	25	23	.920	1.92
Mike Hunnicutt, Oklahoma	JR	13	27	24	.889	1.85
Austin Lopez, San Jose State	SO	12	27	22	.815	1.83
Zane Gonzalez, Arizona State	FR	14	30	25	.833	1.79
Ryan Bustin, Texas Tech	JR	13	27	23	.852	1.77
Jordan Williamson, Stanford	SR	11	22	18	.818	1.64
Brad Craddock, Maryland	SO	13	25	21	.840	1.62
Shawn Moffitt, UCF	JR	13	23	21	.913	1.62
Justin Sorensen, BYU	SR	13	26	21	.808	1.62
Jeremiah Detmer, Toledo	JR	12	20	19	.950	1.58
Niklas Sade, N.C. State	JR	12	23	19	.826	1.58
Kyle Fischer, Louisiana Tech	SO	11	22	17	.773	1.55

KICKOFF RETURNS *(MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)*

	YEAR	G	NO.	YDS	TD	AVG
Kermit Whitfield, Florida State	FR	14	17	619	2	36.41
Ty Montgomery, Stanford	JR	14	36	1091	2	30.31
Devon Edwards, Duke	FR	14	19	574	2	30.21
J.D. McKissic, Arkansas State	SO	13	21	629	1	29.95
Brandon Smith, Texas State	SO	12	20	598	2	29.90
Carlos Wiggins, New Mexico	SO	12	44	1303	3	29.61
Solomon Patton, Florida	SR	12	22	642	1	29.18
Christion Jones, Alabama	JR	13	22	631	1	28.68
Corey Coleman, Baylor	FR	13	17	483	1	28.41
Autrey Golden, UTEP	SO	11	28	774	2	27.64
Brelan Chancellor, North Texas	SR	13	24	663	1	27.63
Demarcus Ayers, Houston	FR	13	37	1021	1	27.59
Adam Hine, BYU	SO	12	31	843	0	27.19

Team Leaders

RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Auburn	14	729	4596	6.30	48	328.3
Navy	13	775	4230	5.46	50	325.4
Army	12	693	3717	5.36	34	309.8
New Mexico	12	604	3706	6.14	40	308.8
Ohio State	14	635	4321	6.80	45	308.6
Georgia Tech	13	713	3891	5.46	46	299.3
Northern Illinois	14	655	4161	6.35	39	297.2
Wisconsin	13	557	3689	6.62	35	283.8
Oregon	13	568	3556	6.26	42	273.5
BYU	13	664	3475	5.23	24	267.3
Arizona	13	647	3444	5.32	36	264.9
Air Force	12	637	3152	4.95	30	262.7
Baylor	13	626	3376	5.39	47	259.7
Toledo	12	482	2887	5.99	26	240.6
Washington	13	610	3107	5.09	35	239.0
Missouri	14	588	3330	5.66	35	237.9
Rice	14	699	3183	4.55	31	227.4
Oklahoma	13	559	2911	5.21	19	223.9

TURNOVER MARGIN

	GAINED			LOST			
	FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN/G
Houston	18	25	43	8	10	18	1.9
Louisville	11	16	27	6	4	10	1.3
Florida State	9	26	35	5	13	18	1.2
Oklahoma State	12	21	33	5	13	18	1.2
Missouri	12	20	32	8	8	16	1.1
Buffalo	14	15	29	7	8	15	1.1
Arizona State	12	21	33	6	12	18	1.1
Baylor	10	19	29	10	6	16	1.0
South Carolina	12	18	30	13	4	17	1.0
Northern Illinois	11	19	30	9	8	17	0.9
Michigan State	11	17	28	8	7	15	0.9
Navy	9	13	22	6	4	10	0.9
Middle Tennessee	18	15	33	6	15	21	0.9
Ball State	18	13	31	11	8	19	0.9
North Texas	16	18	34	9	14	23	0.8
Tulane	16	19	35	8	16	24	0.8
Oregon	11	17	28	12	6	18	0.8
UCLA	12	14	26	7	9	16	0.8

RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Louisville	13	406	1049	2.58	10	80.7
Michigan State	14	425	1212	2.85	8	86.6
Stanford	14	435	1251	2.88	8	89.4
Rutgers	13	423	1310	3.10	17	100.8
Wisconsin	13	414	1333	3.22	8	102.5
Cincinnati	13	423	1358	3.21	12	104.5
Alabama	13	416	1381	3.32	8	106.2
Utah State	14	535	1494	2.79	9	106.7
Ohio State	14	466	1532	3.29	9	109.4
Virginia Tech	13	449	1442	3.21	13	110.9
Georgia Tech	13	422	1505	3.57	18	115.8
Memphis	12	421	1396	3.32	16	116.3
East Carolina	13	465	1517	3.26	12	116.7
North Texas	13	426	1567	3.68	10	120.5
USC	14	426	1689	3.96	14	120.6
UCF	13	400	1592	3.98	21	122.5
Tulane	13	504	1608	3.19	17	123.7
Florida State	14	536	1747	3.26	7	124.8

PASSING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	COMP	INT	PCT	YDS	TD	YDS/G
Fresno State	13	675	460	10	68.3	5133	50	394.8
Texas Tech	13	714	453	18	63.4	5107	35	392.8
Oregon State	13	625	413	16	66.1	4844	38	372.6
Washington State	13	756	470	24	62.2	4784	36	368.0
Baylor	13	448	277	6	61.8	4668	35	359.1
San Jose State	12	496	317	14	63.9	4271	34	355.9
Texas A&M	13	489	339	13	69.3	4593	40	353.3
SMU	12	619	400	12	64.6	4097	23	341.4
Clemson	13	493	341	12	69.2	4330	39	333.1
California	12	621	368	14	59.2	3977	22	331.4
East Carolina	13	565	397	10	70.3	4265	35	328.1
Ball State	13	509	322	8	63.3	4214	35	324.2
Troy	12	483	325	9	67.3	3867	28	322.3
Florida State	14	442	288	13	65.2	4423	42	315.9
Georgia	13	459	293	12	63.8	4085	31	314.2
Louisville	13	439	311	4	70.8	4082	33	314.0
Indiana	12	470	279	14	59.4	3680	36	306.7
Cincinnati	13	469	311	17	66.3	3947	28	303.6
Hawaii	12	519	296	22	57.0	3617	31	301.4

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Baylor	13	1074	8044	7.49	91	618.8
Oregon	13	973	7345	7.55	81	565.0
Fresno State	13	1088	7122	6.55	76	547.8
Texas A&M	13	954	6999	7.34	78	538.4
Northern Illinois	14	1073	7277	6.78	71	519.8
Florida State	14	947	7267	7.67	94	519.1
Ohio State	14	1003	7167	7.15	87	511.9
Texas Tech	13	1136	6643	5.85	57	511.0
Indiana	12	928	6102	6.58	62	508.5
Clemson	13	1037	6600	6.36	69	507.7
Auburn	14	1014	7018	6.92	73	501.3
Marshall	14	1093	7005	6.41	80	500.4
Washington	13	1023	6491	6.35	64	499.3
BYU	13	1111	6417	5.78	47	493.6
San Jose State	12	928	5919	6.38	46	493.3
Missouri	14	1042	6870	6.59	71	490.7
Georgia	13	945	6294	6.66	58	484.2

PASS-EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

	G	ATT	COMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	RATING
Michigan State	14	448	213	47.5	17	3.79	2319	5.2	12	2.68	92.28
Florida State	14	427	222	52.0	26	6.09	2193	5.1	14	3.28	93.77
Florida Atlantic	12	344	162	47.1	13	3.78	1938	5.6	11	3.20	97.41
Louisville	13	373	189	50.7	16	4.29	2220	6.0	8	2.14	99.16
Virginia Tech	13	363	175	48.2	19	5.23	2240	6.2	12	3.31	100.48
Oklahoma State	13	541	290	53.6	21	3.88	3153	5.8	16	2.96	104.56
Oregon	13	479	271	56.6	17	3.55	2659	5.6	14	2.92	105.75
Florida	12	319	159	49.8	10	3.13	2062	6.5	9	2.82	107.18
Bowling Green	14	422	232	55.0	8	1.90	2392	5.7	11	2.61	107.40
Washington	13	507	279	55.0	16	3.16	2954	5.8	15	2.96	107.42
TCU	12	412	213	51.7	19	4.61	2707	6.6	14	3.40	108.88
Baylor	13	440	212	48.2	19	4.32	2794	6.4	23	5.23	110.14
Marshall	14	446	230	51.6	18	4.04	2913	6.5	17	3.81	110.94
USC	14	516	293	56.8	17	3.29	3004	5.8	20	3.88	111.89
Utah State	14	483	261	54.0	17	3.52	3138	6.5	17	3.52	113.19
BYU	13	490	279	56.9	13	2.65	2846	5.8	19	3.88	113.22
Iowa	13	395	217	54.9	13	3.29	2271	5.7	20	5.06	113.36

TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Louisville	13	779	3269	4.20	18	251.5
Michigan State	14	873	3531	4.04	21	252.2
Florida State	14	963	3940	4.09	21	281.4
Virginia Tech	13	812	3682	4.53	31	283.2
Alabama	13	771	3725	4.83	23	286.5
Iowa	13	861	3940	4.58	30	303.1
Wisconsin	13	839	3966	4.73	25	305.1
Florida	12	712	3771	5.30	27	314.3
Cincinnati	13	861	4103	4.77	34	315.6
Bowling Green	14	890	4500	5.06	29	321.4
Florida Atlantic	12	800	3922	4.90	32	326.8
Utah State	14	1018	4632	4.55	28	330.9
USC	14	942	4693	4.98	39	335.2
Western Kentucky	12	763	4070	5.33	37	339.2
LSU	13	872	4429	5.08	32	340.7
Stanford	14	989	4804	4.86	31	343.1
North Texas	13	881	4528	5.14	30	348.3
Mississippi State	13	833	4541	5.45	36	349.3

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	TD	PTS	PTS/G
Baylor	13	91	681	52.38
Florida State	14	94	723	51.64
Ohio State	14	87	637	45.50
Oregon	13	81	591	45.46
Texas A&M	13	78	575	44.23
Fresno State	13	76	564	43.38
Marshall	14	80	590	42.14
Clemson	13	69	522	40.15
East Carolina	13	68	522	40.15
Arizona State	14	69	556	39.71
Northern Illinois	14	71	555	39.64
Auburn	14	73	553	39.50
Missouri	14	71	548	39.14
Oklahoma State	13	68	508	39.08
Ball State	13	64	501	38.54
Indiana	12	62	461	38.42
Alabama	13	65	496	38.15
Washington	13	64	493	37.92

SCORING DEFENSE

	G	TD	PTS	PTS/G
Florida State	14	21	170	12.14
Louisville	13	18	158	12.15
Michigan State	14	21	185	13.21
Alabama	13	23	181	13.92
Bowling Green	14	29	222	15.86
Wisconsin	13	25	212	16.31
Utah State	14	28	239	17.07
North Texas	13	30	231	17.77
Iowa	13	30	246	18.92
Stanford	14	31	266	19.00
Virginia Tech	13	31	251	19.31
South Carolina	13	32	264	20.31
Oregon	13	32	266	20.46
Cincinnati	13	34	273	21.00
Florida	12	27	253	21.08
USC	14	39	297	21.21
UCF	13	36	277	21.31
Tulane	13	33	278	21.38

Targets

A look at the all-time FBS leaders and the players who could challenge them in 2014.

■ Active players in CAPS ■ Statistics courtesy of the NCAA

Rakeem Cato

Mike Hunnicutt

Sean Mannion

Jahwan Edwards

PASSING YARDS	
Case Keenum, Houston	19,217
Timmy Chang, Hawaii	17,072
Landry Jones, Oklahoma	16,646
Graham Harrell, Texas Tech	15,793
Ty Detmer, BYU	15,031
Kellen Moore, Boise State	14,667
Colt Brennan, Hawaii	14,193
Philip Rivers, N.C. State	13,484
Corey Robinson, Troy	13,477
Colt McCoy, Texas	13,253
Aaron Murray, Georgia	13,166
Kevin Kolb, Houston	12,964
Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan	12,905
Derek Carr, Fresno State	12,842
Tim Rattay, Louisiana Tech	12,746
Ryan Lindley, San Diego State	12,690
Luke McCown, Louisiana Tech	12,666
Chris Redman, Louisville	12,541
Chase Daniel, Missouri	12,515
Trevor Vittatoe, UTEP	12,439
Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech	12,429
Matt Barkley, USC	12,327
Zac Dysert, Miami (OH)	12,013
Tajh Boyd, Clemson	11,904
Byron Leftwich, Marshall	11,903
KNOCKING ON THE DOOR *(active career leaders)*	
SEAN MANNION, Oregon State	10,436
RAKEEM CATO, Marshall	10,176
CONNOR HALLIDAY, Washington State	7,026

POINTS	
Montee Ball, Wisconsin	500
Travis Prentice, Miami (OH)	468
Dustin Hopkins, Florida State	466
Ricky Williams, Texas	452
Aaron Jones, Baylor	451
Kyle Brotzman, Boise State	439
Art Carmody, Louisville	433
Kevin Kelly, Penn State	425
Roman Anderson, Houston	423
Taurean Henderson, Texas Tech	414
Blair Walsh, Georgia	412
Billy Bennett, Georgia	409
Matt Weller, Ohio	409
Brock Forsey, Boise State	408
Ross Evans, TCU	407
Matt Hogan, Houston	405
Cedric Benson, Texas	404
Chandler Catanzaro, Clemson	404
Jeremy Ito, Rutgers	400
Carlos Huerta, Miami	397
Alex Henery, Nebraska	397
Jason Elam, Hawaii	395
Anthony Thompson, Indiana	394
Derek Schmidt, Florida State	393
Nick Novak, Maryland	393
KNOCKING ON THE DOOR *(active career leaders)*	
MIKE HUNNICUTT, Oklahoma	351
TONY MILIANO, Cincinnati	275
TREVOR ROMAINE, Oregon State	263

TOUCHDOWN PASSES	
Case Keenum, Houston	155
Kellen Moore, Boise State	142
Graham Harrell, Texas Tech	134
Colt Brennan, Hawaii	131
Landry Jones, Oklahoma	123
Ty Detmer, BYU	121
Aaron Murray, Georgia	121
Timmy Chang, Hawaii	117
Matt Barkley, USC	116
Tim Rattay, Louisiana Tech	115
Danny Wuerffel, Florida	114
Derek Carr, Fresno State	113
Colt McCoy, Texas	112
Russell Wilson, N.C. State/Wisconsin	109
Tajh Boyd, Clemson	107
Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan	102
Chase Daniel, Missouri	101
Chad Pennington, Marshall	100
Matt Leinart, USC	99
Chase Clement, Rice	99
Tim Hiller, Western Michigan	99
Geno Smith, West Virginia	98
Trevor Vittatoe, UTEP	97
Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech	95
Philip Rivers, N.C. State	95
Brady Quinn, Notre Dame	95
KNOCKING ON THE DOOR *(active career leaders)*	
RAKEEM CATO, Marshall	91
SEAN MANNION, Oregon State	68
MARCUS MARIOTA, Oregon	63

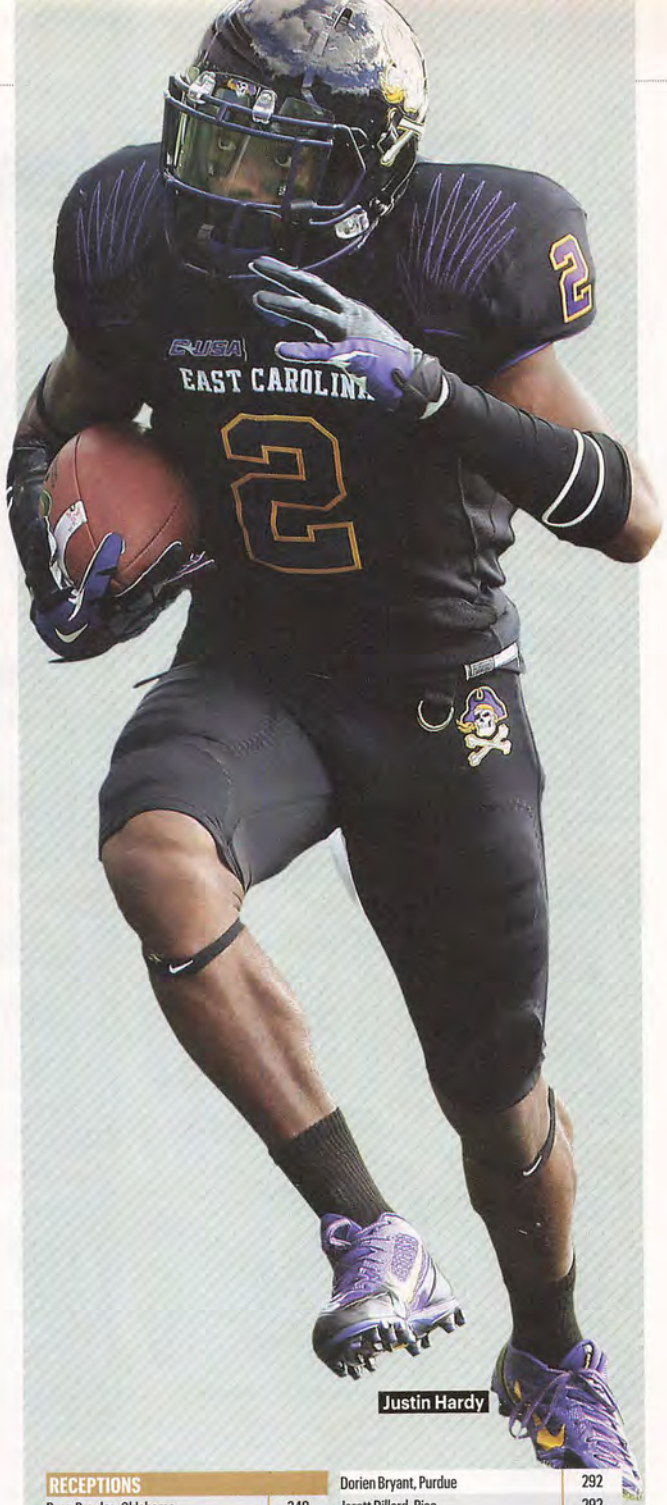
RUSHING YARDS	
Ron Dayne, Wisconsin	6,397
Ricky Williams, Texas	6,279
Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh	6,082
DeAngelo Williams, Memphis	6,026
Charles White, USC	5,598
Travis Prentice, Miami (OH)	5,596
Cedric Benson, Texas	5,540
Damion Fletcher, Southern Miss	5,302
LaDainian Tomlinson, TCU	5,263
Herschel Walker, Georgia	5,259
Archie Griffin, Ohio State	5,177
Avon Cobourne, West Virginia	5,164
Garrett Wolfe, Northern Illinois	5,164
Montee Ball, Wisconsin	5,140
LaMichael James, Oregon	5,082
Mike Hart, Michigan	5,040
Darren Lewis, Texas A&M	5,012
Darren Sproles, Kansas State	4,979
DonTrell Moore, New Mexico	4,973
Anthony Thompson, Indiana	4,965
George Rogers, South Carolina	4,958
Trevor Cobb, Rice	4,948
Michael Turner, Northern Illinois	4,941
Ray Rice, Rutgers	4,926
Paul Palmer, Temple	4,895
KNOCKING ON THE DOOR *(active career leaders)*	
JAHWAN EDWARDS, Ball State	3,306
BRAXTON MILLER, Ohio State	3,054
AMEER ABDULLAH, Nebraska	2,977

—compiled by Will Long

CATO: CHRISTOPHER JACKSON / AP; HUNNICUTT: ORLIN WAGNER / AP; MANNION: EUGENE TANNER / AP; EDWARDS: G.M. ANDREWS / AP

Titus Davis

Derron Smith



Justin Hardy

RECEIVING YARDS	
Trevor Insley, Nevada	5,005
Ryan Broyles, Oklahoma	4,586
Marcus Harris, Wyoming	4,518
Patrick Edwards, Houston	4,507
Rashaun Woods, Oklahoma State	4,414
Ryan Yarborough, Wyoming	4,357
Troy Edwards, Louisiana Tech	4,352
Aaron Turner, Pacific	4,345
Greg Salas, Hawaii	4,345
Terance Mathis, New Mexico	4,254
Geoff Noisy, Nevada	4,249
Jordan White, Western Michigan	4,187
Jarett Dillard, Rice	4,138
Darius Watts, Marshall	4,031
Kendall Wright, Baylor	4,004
Troy Walters, Stanford	3,986
Derek Hagan, Arizona State	3,939
Mike Hass, Oregon State	3,924
Jason Rivers, Hawaii	3,919
Josh Davis, Marshall	3,889
Roy Williams, Texas	3,866
Emmanuel Sanders, SMU	3,791
Chad Mackey, Louisiana Tech	3,789
Vincent Marshall, Houston	3,770
Jordan Matthews, Vanderbilt	3,764
KNOCKING ON THE DOOR *(active career leaders)*	
JUSTIN HARDY, East Carolina	3,047
TITUS DAVIS, Central Michigan	2,720
JAMISON CROWDER, Duke	2,597

INTERCEPTIONS	
Al Brosky, Illinois	29
John Provost, Holy Cross	27
Martin Bayless, Bowling Green	27
Tom Curtis, Michigan	25
Tony Thurman, Boston College	25
Tracy Saul, Texas Tech	25
Jeff Nixon, Richmond	23
Jim Bolding, East Carolina	22
Lamont Thompson, Washington State	22
Mike Sensibaugh, Ohio State	21
Barry Hill, Iowa State	21
Chuck Cecil, Arizona	21
Terrell Buckley, Florida State	21
Ed Reed, Miami	21
Jim Leonhard, Wisconsin	21
Alphonso Smith, Wake Forest	21
Lynn Chandnois, Michigan State	20
Bobby Wilson, Ole Miss	20
Tom Wilson, Colgate	20
Jackie Wallace, Arizona	20
Dave Atkinson, BYU	20
Artimus Parker, USC	20
Charles Jefferson, McNeese State	20
Chris Williams, LSU	20
Anthony Young, Temple	20
Mark Collins, Cal State Fullerton	20
Kevin Smith, Texas A&M	20
Ray Jackson, Colorado State	20
Dre' Bly, North Carolina	20
Mitch Meeuwsen, Oregon State	20
KNOCKING ON THE DOOR *(active career leaders)*	
DERRON SMITH, Fresno State	14
LORENZO DOSS, Tulane	12
DION BAILEY, USC	11
BRYCE CALLAHAN, Rice	11

RECEPTIONS	
Ryan Broyles, Oklahoma	349
Taylor Stubblefield, Purdue	325
Tyron Carrier, Houston	320
Josh Davis, Marshall	306
Eric Page, Toledo	306
Jordan White, Western Michigan	306
Antonio Brown, Central Michigan	305
Taurean Henderson, Texas Tech	303
Kendall Wright, Baylor	302
Arnold Jackson, Louisville	300
Trevor Insley, Nevada	298
Freddie Barnes, Bowling Green	297
Geoff Noisy, Nevada	295
Davone Bess, Hawaii	293
Rashaun Woods, Oklahoma State	293
Dorien Bryant, Purdue	292
Jarett Dillard, Rice	292
Jason Rivers, Hawaii	292
Patrick Edwards, Houston	291
Bryan Anderson, Central Michigan	290
Tavon Austin, West Virginia	288
Greg Salas, Hawaii	285
Emmanuel Sanders, SMU	285
Conner Vernon, Duke	283
Ryan Wolfe, UNLV	283
KNOCKING ON THE DOOR *(active career leaders)*	
JUSTIN HARDY, East Carolina	266
TOMMY SHULER, Marshall	230
MATT MILLER, Boise State	216

DAVIS: DUANE BURLESON / AP; SMITH: GARY KAZANJIAN / AP; HARDY: GERRY BROOME / AP

2014 FCS Schedules

compiled by Will Long

ABILENE CHRISTIAN
Abilene, TX

A.27	@GEORGIA STATE	
S.6	Northern Arizona	
S.13	@TROY	
S.20	Incarnate Word	31-34
S.27	@HOUSTON BAPTIST	69-12
O.4	Lamar	
O.11	Ave Maria	
O.18	@MCNEESE STATE	
O.25	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	
N.1	Central Arkansas	
N.8	Northwestern State	
N.15	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	

Coach: Ken Collums
Nickname: Wildcats · **2013 Record:** 6-5

ALABAMA A&M
Normal, AL

A.31	North Carolina A&T*	
S.6	@TUSKEGEE	7-23
S.13	@UAB	
S.20	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	12-10
S.27	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	9-28
O.4	Grambling State	23-9
O.11	Southern	17-20
O.25	Alabama State**	7-31
N.1	@JACKSON STATE	20-26
N.8	Alcorn State	19-18
N.15	Prairie View A&M	26-28
N.22	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	50-42

*At Orlando, FL, **At Birmingham, AL
Coach: James Spady
Nickname: Bulldogs · **2013 Record:** 4-8

ALABAMA STATE
Montgomery, AL

A.30	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	
S.6	Tennessee State	
S.13	Mississippi Valley State	19-7
S.20	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	40-39
S.27	Texas Southern	34-2
O.4	@ALCORN STATE	49-30
O.11	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	48-42
O.25	Alabama A&M*	31-7
N.1	@SOUTHERN	28-31
N.8	Jackson State	23-30
N.15	@GRAMBLING STATE	52-21
N.22	Stillman	41-28

*At Birmingham, AL
Coach: Reggie Barlow
Nickname: Hornets · **2013 Record:** 8-4

ALBANY
Albany, NY

A.30	Holy Cross	
S.6	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	17-20
S.20	@RHODE ISLAND	13-19
S.27	Columbia	
O.4	James Madison	13-40
O.11	Richmond	10-27
O.18	@MAINE	27-33
O.25	Colgate	37-34
N.1	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	20-37
N.8	Delaware	30-33
N.15	@VILLANOVA	
N.22	Stony Brook	3-24

Coach: Greg Gattuso
Nickname: Great Danes · **2013 Record:** 1-11

ALCORN STATE
Lorman, MS

A.30	Virginia-Lynchburg	
S.6	@SOUTHERN MISS	
S.13	Louisiana College	
S.20	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	35-28
S.27	Southern	44-38
O.4	Alabama State	30-49
O.11	@GRAMBLING STATE	48-0
O.18	Texas Southern	20-13
O.25	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	50-35
N.8	@ALABAMA A&M	18-19
N.15	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	21-16
N.22	Jackson State	48-33

Coach: Jay Hopson
Nickname: Braves · **2013 Record:** 9-3

ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF
Pine Bluff, AR

A.30	@TEXAS STATE	
S.20	@ALABAMA STATE	39-40
S.27	Jackson State	33-42
O.4	@SOUTHERN	21-29
O.18	@GRAMBLING STATE	45-42
O.25	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	28-41
N.1	Mississippi Valley State	38-18
N.8	Prairie View A&M	23-43
N.15	@ALCORN STATE	16-21
N.22	Alabama A&M	42-50

Coach: Monte Coleman
Nickname: Golden Lions · **2013 Record:** 2-9

AUSTIN PEAY
Clarksville, TN

A.30	@MEMPHIS	
S.13	Chattanooga	10-42
S.20	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	7-63
S.27	@ILLINOIS STATE	
O.4	Eastern Kentucky	3-38
O.11	@MERCER	
O.18	Murray State	3-31
O.25	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	14-38
N.1	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	10-42
N.8	Tennessee State	6-31
N.15	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	34-36
N.22	Tennessee Tech	0-34

Coach: Kirby Cannon
Nickname: Governors · **2013 Record:** 0-12

BETHUNE-COOKMAN
Daytona Beach, FL

A.30	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	34-13
S.13	Grambling State	
S.20	@UCF	
O.4	Delaware State	21-7
O.11	Howard	27-6
O.18	@SAVANNAH STATE	48-21
O.25	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	14-3
N.1	North Carolina Central	38-14
N.8	@NORFOLK STATE	24-27
N.15	@HAMPTON	42-12
N.22	Florida A&M*	29-10

*At Orlando, FL
Coach: Brian Jenkins
Nickname: Wildcats · **2013 Record:** 10-3

BROWN
Providence, RI

S.20	@GEORGETOWN	45-7
S.27	Harvard	23-41
O.4	@RHODE ISLAND	31-14
O.11	Holy Cross	
O.18	@PRINCETON	17-39
O.25	Cornell	42-35
N.1	@PENNSYLVANIA	27-0
N.8	Yale	17-24
N.15	@DARTMOUTH	20-24
N.22	Columbia	48-7

Coach: Phil Estes
Nickname: Bears · **2013 Record:** 6-4

BRYANT
Smithfield, RI

A.28	@STONY BROOK	13-21
S.6	Merrimack	
S.13	Maine	22-35
S.20	@LIBERTY	
O.4	Bucknell	
O.18	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	20-23
O.25	Robert Morris	3-24
N.1	Central Connectictut State	29-16
N.8	@DUQUESNE	42-14
N.15	@SACRED HEART	28-56
N.22	Wagner	47-28

Coach: Marty Fine
Nickname: Bulldogs · **2013 Record:** 5-7

BUCKNELL
Lewisburg, PA

A.30	VMI	35-23
S.6	@MARIST	27-14
S.20	@SACRED HEART	0-16
S.27	Cornell	13-45
O.4	@BRYANT	
O.11	@LEHIGH	48-10
O.25	@GEORGETOWN	17-7
N.1	Lafayette	7-31
N.8	Fordham	21-23
N.15	@HOLY CROSS	27-51
N.22	Colgate	28-7

Coach: Joe Susan
Nickname: Bison · **2013 Record:** 6-5

BUTLER
Indianapolis

S.6	@WITTENBERG	49-24
S.13	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	
S.20	Taylor	
S.27	Jacksonville	45-27
O.4	@STETSON	35-15
O.11	@CAMPBELL	35-14
O.18	San Diego	14-42
O.25	@DRAKE	24-14
N.1	Morehead State	58-27
N.8	@VALPARAISO	72-12
N.15	Dayton	33-30

Coach: Jeff Voris
Nickname: Bulldogs · **2013 Record:** 9-4

CAL POLY
San Luis Obispo, CA

A.28	@NEW MEXICO STATE	
S.6	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	
S.20	Portland State	38-34
S.27	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	13-17
O.4	Southern Utah	
O.11	@WEBER STATE	47-0
O.18	@SACRAMENTO STATE	42-7
O.25	Montana	14-21
N.1	Montana State	
N.8	@IDAHO STATE	
N.15	UC Davis	34-16
N.22	@SAN DIEGO	38-16

Coach: Tim Walsh
Nickname: Mustangs · **2013 Record:** 6-6

CAMPBELL
Buies Creek, NC

A.28	Charlotte	7-52
S.6	@APPALACHIAN STATE	
S.13	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	10-30
S.27	Valparaiso	42-49
O.4	@MOREHEAD STATE	36-45
O.11	Butler	14-35
O.18	Davidson	47-14
O.25	@MARIST	28-55
N.1	Stetson	19-18
N.8	Missouri Baptist	
N.15	@JACKSONVILLE	45-52
N.22	@DAYTON	

Coach: Mike Minter
Nickname: Fighting Camels · **2013 Record:** 3-9

CENTRAL ARKANSAS
Conway, AR

A.30	@TEXAS TECH	
S.6	Tennessee-Martin	23-24
S.13	@MONTANA STATE	
S.20	Missouri State	17-13
S.27	Nicholls State	17-10
O.4	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	66-31
O.11	Houston Baptist	
O.18	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	31-58
O.25	Northwestern State	28-31
N.1	@ABILENE CHRISTIAN	
N.8	Lamar	26-24
N.22	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	49-31

Coach: Steve Campbell
Nickname: Bears · **2013 Record:** 7-5

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE
New Britain, CT

A.30	@TOWSON	
S.6	Albany	20-17
S.13	@HOLY CROSS	21-52
S.20	@DARTMOUTH	
S.27	Rhode Island	7-42
O.11	Duquesne	21-24
O.18	@ROBERT MORRIS	21-54
O.25	Wagner	52-17
N.1	@BRYANT	16-29
N.8	Sacred Heart	36-59
N.15	Howard	
N.23	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	38-29

Coach: Pete Rossomando
Nickname: Blue Devils · **2013 Record:** 4-8

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Charleston, SC

A.28	Point University	
S.6	Newberry	
S.13	Campbell	30-10
S.20	Citadel	32-29
S.27	@CHARLOTTE	36-14
O.11	@VANDERBILT	
O.18	Presbyterian	27-16
O.25	@COASTAL CAROLINA	31-26
N.1	@MONMOUTH	
N.8	Gardner-Webb	10-27
N.15	@LIBERTY	14-56
N.22	@GEORGIA	

Coach: Jamey Chadwell
Nickname: Buccaneers · **2013 Record:** 10-3

CHATTANOOGA
Chattanooga, TN

A.28	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	
S.6	Jacksonville State	
S.13	@AUSTIN PEAY	42-10
S.27	Samford	14-17
O.4	VMI	
O.11	@TENNESSEE	
O.18	@CITADEL	28-24
O.25	Mercer	
N.1	@WESTERN CAROLINA	42-21
N.8	Wofford	20-10
N.15	@TENNESSEE TECH	
N.22	@FURMAN	31-9

Coach: Russ Huesman
Nickname: Mocs · **2013 Record:** 8-4

CITADEL
Charleston, SC

A.30	Coastal Carolina	
S.6	@FLORIDA STATE	
S.20	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	29-32
S.27	Gardner-Webb	
O.4	@WOFFORD	10-21
O.11	Charlotte	
O.18	Chattanooga	24-28
O.25	@WESTERN CAROLINA	28-21
N.1	@MERCER	
N.8	Furman	17-24
N.15	Samford	28-26
N.22	@VMI	31-10

Coach: Mike Houston
Nickname: Bulldogs · **2013 Record:** 5-7

COASTAL CAROLINA
Conway, SC

A.30	@CITADEL	
S.6	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	
S.13	South Carolina State	27-20
S.20	@FLORIDA A&M	
S.27	Elon	53-28
O.4	@FURMAN	35-28
O.11	@PRESBYTERIAN	46-13
O.25	Charleston Southern	26-31
N.1	@GARDNER-WEBB	42-7
N.8	@CHARLOTTE	50-25
N.15	Monmouth	
N.22	Liberty	55-52

Coach: Joe Moglia
Nickname: Chanticleers · **2013 Record:** 12-3

COLGATE
Hamilton, NY

A.30	@BALL STATE	
S.13	@DELAWARE	
S.20	Cornell	41-20
S.27	Georgetown	34-14
O.4	Holy Cross	28-24
O.11	Princeton	
O.18	@YALE	22-39
O.25	@ALBANY	34-37
N.1	@FORDHAM	19-56
N.8	Lafayette	28-24
N.15	@LEHIGH	14-31
N.22	@BUCKNELL	7-28

Coach: Dan Hunt
Nickname: Raiders · **2013 Record:** 4-8

COLUMBIA
New York

S.20	Fordham	7-52
S.27	@ALBANY	
O.4	Princeton	7-53
O.11	@MONMOUTH	14-37
O.18	@PENNSYLVANIA	7-21
O.25	Dartmouth	0-56
N.1	Yale	12-53
N.8	@HARVARD	0-34
N.15	Cornell	9-24
N.22	@BROWN	7-48

Coach: Pete Mangurian
Nickname: Lions · **2013 Record:** 0-10

CORNELL
Ithaca, NY

S.20	@COLGATE	20-41
S.27	@BUCKNELL	45-13
O.4	Yale	23-38
O.11	@HARVARD	24-34
O.18	Lehigh	
O.25	@BROWN	35-42
N.1	Princeton	20-53
N.8	Dartmouth	6-34
N.15	@COLUMBIA	24-9
N.22	Pennsylvania	42-41

Coach: David Archer
Nickname: Big Red · **2013 Record:** 3-7

DARTMOUTH
Hanover, NH

S.20	Central Connecticut State	
S.27	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	
O.4	Pennsylvania	31-37
O.11	@YALE	20-13
O.18	Holy Cross	28-31
O.25	@COLUMBIA	56-0
N.1	Harvard	21-24
N.8	@CORNELL	34-6
N.15	Brown	24-20
N.22	@PRINCETON	28-24

Coach: Buddy Teevens
Nickname: Big Green · **2013 Record:** 6-4

DAVIDSON
Davidson, NC

A.30	College of Faith (NC)	
S.6	Catawba	
S.13	@VMI	
S.20	Morehead State	14-45
S.27	@PRINCETON	
O.4	Dayton	8-40
O.11	@DRAKE	6-27
O.18	@CAMPBELL	14-47
O.25	Stetson	13-26
N.8	Jacksonville	13-56
N.15	@MARIST	14-42
N.22	@VALPARAISO	

Coach: Paul Nichols
Nickname: Wildcats · **2013 Record:** 0-11

DAYTON
Dayton, OH

S.6	Georgetown	
S.13	@DUQUESNE	23-20
S.20	Robert Morris	21-14
O.4	@DAVIDSON	40-8
O.11	@MARIST	20-31
O.18	Morehead State	42-14
O.25	@SAN DIEGO	45-38
N.1	Valparaiso	45-20
N.8	Drake	10-36
N.15	@BUTLER	30-33
N.22	Campbell	

Coach: Rick Chamberlin
Nickname: Flyers · **2013 Record:** 7-4

DELAWARE
Newark, DE

A.30	@PITTSBURGH	
S.6	Delaware State	42-21
S.13	Colgate	
S.27	@JAMES MADISON	29-22
O.11	Elon	
O.18	Towson	32-31
O.25	@WILLIAM & MARY	10-24
N.1	Rhode Island	35-13
N.8	@ALBANY	33-30
N.15	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	
N.22	Villanova	34-35

Coach: Dave Brock
Nickname: Blue Hens · **2013 Record:** 7-5

DELAWARE STATE
Dover, DE

A.30	@MONMOUTH	
S.6	@DELAWARE	21-42
S.13	Towson	7-49
S.20	@TEMPLE	
S.27	Savannah State	24-22
O.4	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	7-21
O.11	@NORFOLK STATE	14-7
O.18	North Carolina A&T	12-7
O.25	Hampton	7-30
N.1	@HOWARD	22-20
N.15	Florida A&M	29-21
N.22	@MORGAN STATE	26-31

Coach: Kermit Blount
Nickname: Hornets · **2013 Record:** 5-6

DRAKE
Des Moines, IA

A.30	Grand View	16-21
S.6	Truman State	
S.13	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	
S.20	Marist	
O.4	@JACKSONVILLE	27-17
O.11	Davidson	27-6
O.18	@VALPARAISO	23-10
O.25	Butler	14-24
N.1	San Diego	13-23
N.8	@DAYTON	36-10
N.22	@STETSON	

Coach: Rick Fox
Nickname: Bulldogs · **2013 Record:** 6-5

DUQUESNE
Pittsburgh

A.30	@BUFFALO	
S.6	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	17-59
S.13	Dayton	20-23
S.20	Monmouth	33-23
O.4	West Liberty	27-14
O.11	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	24-21
O.18	Sacred Heart	0-10
O.25	Alderson-Broaddus	

N.1	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	21-10
N.8	Bryant	14-42
N.15	@WAGNER	34-7
N.22	Robert Morris	21-20

Coach: Jerry Schmitt
Nickname: Dukes · **2013 Record:** 7-4

EASTERN ILLINOIS

Charleston, IL

A.28	@MINNESOTA	
S.6	Southern Illinois	40-37
S.13	@ILLINOIS STATE	57-24
S.20	Austin Peay	63-7
S.27	@OHIO	
O.11	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	42-7
O.18	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	55-33
O.25	Tennessee State	34-16
N.1	@TENNESSEE TECH	56-21
N.8	Murray State	37-17
N.15	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	52-14
N.22	Tennessee-Martin	70-22

Coach: Kim Dameron
Nickname: Panthers · **2013 Record:** 12-2

EASTERN KENTUCKY

Richmond, KY

A.28	@ROBERT MORRIS	38-6
S.6	@MIAMI (OHIO)	
S.13	Morehead State	56-24
S.20	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	7-16
O.4	@AUSTIN PEAY	38-3
O.11	Eastern Illinois	7-42
O.18	@TENNESSEE TECH	24-10
O.25	Southeast Missouri State	31-7
N.1	@TENNESSEE STATE	44-0
N.8	Jacksonville State	10-68
N.15	Murray State	27-34
N.22	@FLORIDA	

Coach: Dean Hood
Nickname: Colonels · **2013 Record:** 6-6

EASTERN WASHINGTON

Cheney, WA

A.23	Sam Houston State	34-49
A.30	Montana Western	
S.6	@WASHINGTON	
S.20	@MONTANA STATE	54-29
S.27	@UC DAVIS	
O.4	Idaho State	55-34
O.11	@SOUTHERN UTAH	34-10
O.18	Northern Colorado	
O.25	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	
N.1	North Dakota	35-14
N.8	Montana	42-37
N.22	@PORTLAND STATE	42-41

Coach: Beau Baldwin
Nickname: Eagles · **2013 Record:** 12-3

ELON

Elon, NC

A.30	@DUKE	
S.13	North Carolina A&T	10-23
S.20	Charlotte	
S.27	@COASTAL CAROLINA	28-53
O.4	New Hampshire	
O.11	@DELAWARE	
O.18	Stony Brook	
O.25	Richmond	
N.1	@TOWSON	
N.8	@WILLIAM & MARY	
N.15	Maine	
N.22	@JAMES MADISON	

Coach: Rich Skrosky
Nickname: Phoenix · **2013 Record:** 2-10

FLORIDA A&M

Tallahassee, FL

A.30	@JACKSON STATE	
S.6	@MIAMI	
S.20	Coastal Carolina	
S.27	@TENNESSEE STATE	7-27
O.4	Morgan State	21-34
O.11	Savannah State	27-14
O.18	@HOWARD	10-21
O.25	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	13-20
N.1	Norfolk State	16-6
N.8	South Carolina State	21-25
N.15	@DELAWARE STATE	21-29
N.22	Bethune-Cookman*	10-29

*At Orlando, FL
Coach: Earl Holmes
Nickname: Rattlers · **2013 Record:** 3-9

FORDHAM

Bronx, NY

A.30	St. Francis (PA)	38-20
S.6	@VILLANOVA	27-24
S.13	Rhode Island	51-26
S.20	@COLUMBIA	52-7
S.27	@HOLY CROSS	32-30
O.4	Lafayette	14-27
O.11	Pennsylvania	
O.25	@LEHIGH	52-34
N.1	Colgate	56-19
N.8	@BUCKNELL	23-21
N.15	Georgetown	34-12
N.22	@ARMY	

Coach: Joe Moorhead
Nickname: Rams · **2013 Record:** 12-2

FURMAN

Greenville, SC

A.30	Gardner-Webb	21-28
S.6	@MERCER	
S.13	@PRESBYTERIAN	21-20
S.20	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	30-20
S.27	Western Carolina	32-20
O.4	Coastal Carolina	28-35
O.18	@SOUTH CAROLINA	
O.25	Samford	35-17
N.1	@VMI	
N.8	@CITADEL	24-17
N.15	Wofford	27-14
N.22	Chattanooga	9-31

Coach: Bruce Fowler
Nickname: Paladins · **2013 Record:** 8-6

GARDNER-WEBB

Boiling Springs, NC

A.30	@FURMAN	28-21
S.6	@WAKE FOREST	
S.13	Virginia-Lynchburg	
S.20	Wofford	3-0
S.27	@CITADEL	
O.4	Charlotte	51-53
O.18	@VMI	9-27
O.25	@LIBERTY	0-24
N.1	Coastal Carolina	7-42
N.8	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	27-10
N.15	Presbyterian	20-13
N.22	@MONMOUTH	

Coach: Carroll McCray
Nickname: Runnin' Bulldogs · **2013 Record:** 7-5

GEORGETOWN

Washington, DC

A.30	Wagner	21-28
S.6	@DAYTON	
S.13	@MARIST	23-43
S.20	Brown	7-45
S.27	@COLGATE	14-34
O.4	Harvard	
O.11	@LAFAYETTE	27-45
O.25	Bucknell	7-17
N.1	Lehigh	24-45
N.15	@FORDHAM	12-34
N.22	Holy Cross	28-21

Coach: Rob Sgarlata
Nickname: Hoyas · **2013 Record:** 2-9

GRAMBLING STATE

Grambling, LA

A.30	@LAMAR	16-27
S.6	@HOUSTON	
S.13	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	
S.20	@JACKSON STATE	
S.27	Prairie View A&M*	3-31
O.4	@ALABAMA A&M	9-23
O.11	Alcorn State	0-48
O.18	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	42-45
N.1	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	17-23
N.8	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	47-40
N.15	Alabama State	21-52
N.29	Southern**	17-40

*At Dallas **At New Orleans
Coach: Broderick Fobbs
Nickname: Tigers · **2013 Record:** 1-10

HAMPTON

Hampton, VA

A.30	@OLD DOMINION	
S.6	William & Mary	7-31
S.13	@RICHMOND	
S.20	Miles	
S.27	South Carolina State	6-30
O.11	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	31-26
O.18	Norfolk State	27-17
O.25	@DELAWARE STATE	30-7
N.1	Morgan State	27-30
N.8	@NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL	29-21
N.15	Bethune-Cookman	12-42
N.22	@HOWARD	39-42

Coach: Connell Maynor
Nickname: Pirates · **2013 Record:** 4-8

HARVARD

Boston

S.19	Holy Cross	41-35
S.27	@BROWN	41-23
O.4	@GEORGETOWN	
O.11	Cornell	34-24
O.18	Lafayette	35-16
O.25	@PRINCETON	48-51
N.1	@DARTMOUTH	24-21
N.8	Columbia	34-0
N.15	@PENNSYLVANIA	38-30
N.22	Yale	34-7

Coach: Tim Murphy
Nickname: Crimson · **2013 Record:** 9-1

HOLY CROSS

Worcester, MA

A.30	@ALBANY	
S.6	Morgan State	
S.13	Central Connecticut State	52-21
S.19	@HARVARD	35-41
S.27	Fordham	30-32
O.4	@COLGATE	24-28
O.11	@BROWN	
O.18	@DARTMOUTH	31-28
O.25	@LAFAYETTE	23-41
N.8	Lehigh	20-34
N.15	Bucknell	51-27
N.22	@GEORGETOWN	21-28

Coach: Tom Gilmore
Nickname: Crusaders · **2013 Record:** 3-9

HOUSTON BAPTIST

Houston

S.6	McMurry	
S.13	@NORTHERN COLORADO	
S.20	@TEXAS COLLEGE	49-7
S.27	Abilene Christian	12-69
O.4	@INCARNATE WORD	3-24
O.11	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	
O.18	Stephen F. Austin	
O.25	Nicholls State	
N.1	@LAMAR	
N.8	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	
N.15	Sam Houston State	0-74

Coach: Vic Shealy
Nickname: Huskies · **2013 Record:** 3-4

HOWARD

Washington, DC

A.28	@AKRON	
S.6	@RUTGERS	
S.13	Morehouse*	27-16
S.20	Morgan State**	28-14
S.27	North Carolina A&T	19-27
O.4	@NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL	28-37
O.11	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	6-27
O.18	Florida A&M	21-10
N.1	Delaware State	20-22
N.8	@SAVANNAH STATE	42-14
N.15	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	
N.22	Hampton	42-39

*At Washington, DC **At East Rutherford, NJ
Coach: Gary Harrell
Nickname: Bison · **2013 Record:** 6-6

IDAHO STATE

Pocatello, ID

A.28	@UTAH	
S.6	@UTAH STATE	
S.13	Chadron State	
S.27	Sacramento State	
O.4	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	34-55
O.11	Simon Fraser	
O.18	Southern Utah	9-19
O.25	@NORTHERN COLORADO	40-26
N.1	@PORTLAND STATE	31-38
N.8	Cal Poly	
N.15	@MONTANA STATE	
N.22	Weber State	7-32

Coach: Mike Kramer
Nickname: Bengals · **2013 Record:** 3-9

ILLINOIS STATE

Normal, IL

S.6	Mississippi Valley State	
S.13	Eastern Illinois	24-57
S.27	Austin Peay	
O.4	South Dakota State	
O.11	@INDIANA STATE	55-14
O.18	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	35-21
O.25	Missouri State	10-37
N.1	@NORTHERN IOWA	13-3
N.8	Youngstown State	21-59
N.15	@SOUTH DAKOTA	28-14
N.22	Southern Illinois	17-24

Coach: Brock Spack
Nickname: Redbirds · **2013 Record:** 5-6

INCARNATE WORD

San Antonio

A.30	Sacramento State	
S.6	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	
S.13	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	
S.20	@ABILENE CHRISTIAN	34-31
S.27	Southeastern Louisiana	3-35
O.4	Houston Baptist	24-3
O.11	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	
O.18	Texas Lutheran	
O.25	McNeese State	
N.1	@NICHOLLS STATE	
N.8	Sam Houston State	21-52
N.15	@LAMAR	

Coach: Larry Kennan
Nickname: Cardinals · **2013 Record:** 6-5

INDIANA STATE

Terre Haute, IN

A.30	@INDIANA	35-73
S.6	Tennessee Tech	37-38
S.13	@BALL STATE	
S.27	Liberty	
O.4	Northern Iowa	
O.11	Illinois State	14-55
O.18	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	
O.25	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	9-31
N.1	Missouri State	7-49
N.8	South Dakota State	0-29
N.15	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	24-35
N.22	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	14-21

Coach: Mike Sanford
Nickname: Sycamores · **2013 Record:** 1-11

JACKSON STATE

Jackson, MS

A.30	Florida A&M	
S.6	Virginia Lynchburg	
S.13	Tennessee State*	16-26
S.20	Grambling State	
S.27	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	42-33
O.4	Prairie View A&M	51-38
O.11	Mississippi Valley State	26-17
O.25	Southern	27-34
N.1	Alabama A&M	26-20
N.8	@ALABAMA STATE	30-23
N.15	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	35-7
N.22	@ALCORN STATE	33-48

*At Memphis, TN
Coach: Harold Jackson
Nickname: Tigers · **2013 Record:** 8-4

JACKSONVILLE

Jacksonville, FL

A.30	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	
S.13	San Diego	
S.20	Pennsylvania	
S.27	@BUTLER	27-45
O.4	Drake	17-27
O.11	@MOREHEAD STATE	69-19
O.18	@STETSON	45-24
O.25	@LIMESTONE	
N.1	Marist	35-42
N.8	@DAVIDSON	56-13
N.15	Campbell	52-45

Coach: Kerwin Bell
Nickname: Dolphins · **2013 Record:** 5-6

JACKSONVILLE STATE

Jacksonville, AL

A.30	@MICHIGAN STATE	
S.6	@CHATTANOOGA	
S.20	West Alabama	
S.27	@MURRAY STATE	34-35
O.4	Tennessee-Martin	41-27
O.11	@TENNESSEE STATE	15-31
O.25	Tennessee Tech	34-14
N.1	Austin Peay	42-10
N.8	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	68-10
N.15	Eastern Illinois	14-52
N.22	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	42-34

Coach: John Grass
Nickname: Gamecocks · **2013 Record:** 11-4

JAMES MADISON

Harrisonburg, VA

A.30	@MARYLAND	
S.6	@LEHIGH	
S.13	St. Francis (Pa.)	24-20
S.20	@VILLANOVA	31-21
S.27	Delaware	22-29
O.4	@ALBANY	40-13
O.11	Towson	17-28
O.25	@CHARLOTTE	34-7
N.1	William & Mary	7-17
N.8	@STONY BROOK	38-41
N.15	@RICHMOND	38-31
N.22	Elon	

Coach: Everett Withers
Nickname: Dukes · **2013 Record:** 6-6

LAFAYETTE

Easton, PA

S.6	@SACRED HEART	24-26
S.13	Robert Morris	
S.20	@WILLIAM & MARY	6-34
S.27	Wagner	
O.4	@FORDHAM	27-14
O.11	Georgetown	45-27
O.18	@HARVARD	16-35
O.25	Holy Cross	41-23
N.1	@BUCKNELL	31-7
N.8	@COLGATE	24-28
N.22	Lehigh*	50-28

*At Bronx, NY
Coach: Frank Tavani
Nickname: Leopards · **2013 Record:** 5-7

LAMAR

Beaumont, TX

A.30	Grambling State	27-16
S.6	@TEXAS A&M	
S.13	Texas College	
S.20	Mississippi College	
S.27	Sam Houston State	3-14
O.4	@ABILENE CHRISTIAN	
O.11	Southeastern Louisiana	34-56
O.18	@NICHOLLS STATE	56-34
N.1	Houston Baptist	
N.8	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	24-26
N.15	Incarnate Word	
N.22	@MCNEESE STATE	38-42

Coach: Ray Woodard
Nickname: Cardinals · **2013 Record:** 5-7

LEHIGH

Bethlehem, PA

S.6	James Madison	
S.13	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	34-27
S.20	@YALE	
S.27	Monmouth	28-25
O.11	Bucknell	10-48
O.18	@CORNELL	
O.25	Fordham	34-52
N.1	@GEORGETOWN	45-24
N.8	@HOLY CROSS	34-20
N.15	Colgate	31-14
N.22	Lafayette*	28-50

*At Bronx, NY
Coach: Andy Coen
Nickname: Mountain Hawks · **2013 Record:** 8-3

LIBERTY

Lynchburg, VA

A.30	@NORTH CAROLINA	
S.6	@NORFOLK STATE	
S.13	Brevard	59-21
S.20	Bryant	
S.27	@INDIANA STATE	
O.4	Richmond	21-30
O.11	@APPALACHIAN STATE	
O.25	Gardner-Webb	24-0
N.1	@PRESBYTERIAN	35-14
N.8	Monmouth	45-15
N.15	Charleston Southern	56-14
N.22	@COASTAL CAROLINA	52-55

Coach: Turner Gill
Nickname: Flames · **2013 Record:** 8-4

MAINE

Orono, ME

A.30	Norfolk State	23-6
S.13	@BRYANT	35-22
S.20	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
S.27	@TOWSON	
O.4	Villanova	37-35
O.11	@STONY BROOK	19-14
O.18	Albany	33-27
O.25	@RHODE ISLAND	41-0
N.8	Richmond	28-21
N.15	@ELON	
N.22	New Hampshire	3-24

Coach: Jack Cosgrove
Nickname: Black Bears · **2013 Record:** 10-3

MARIST

Poughkeepsie, NY

A.30	@SACRED HEART	21-37
S.6	Bucknell	14-27
S.13	Georgetown	43-23
S.20	@DRAKE	
S.27	San Diego	33-35
O.4	@VALPARAISO	37-0
O.11	Dayton	31-20
O.25	Campbell	55-28
N.1	@JACKSONVILLE	42-35
N.8	@STETSON	27-0
N.15	Davidson	42-14

Coach: Jim Parady
Nickname: Red Foxes · **2013 Record:** 8-3

MCNEESE STATE

Lake Charles, LA

S.6	@NEBRASKA	
S.13	Prairie View A&M	
S.27	Arkansas Tech	
O.4	Nicholls State	55-30
O.11	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	31-23
O.18	Abilene Christian	
O.25	@INCARNATE WORD	
N.1	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	43-17
N.8	Stephen F. Austin	69-38
N.15	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	7-41
N.22	Lamar	42-38

Coach: Matt Viator
Nickname: Cowboys · **2013 Record:** 10-3

MERCER

Macon, GA

A.28	Reinhardt	40-37
S.6	Furman	
S.13	@STETSON	41-14
S.20	Ave Maria	
S.27	@VMI	
O.4	@SAMFORD	
O.11	Austin Peay	
O.18	Western Carolina	
O.25	@CHATTANOOGA	
N.1	Citadel	
N.15	Warner	61-0
N.22	@WOFFORD	

Coach: Bobby Lamb
Nickname: Bears · **2013 Record:** 10-2

2014 FCS Schedules

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
Itta Bena, MS

A.30	Faith	
S.6	@ILLINOIS STATE	
S.13	@ALABAMA STATE	7-19
S.20	Alcorn State	28-35
S.27	Alabama A&M	28-9
O.4	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	20-17
O.11	@JACKSON STATE	17-26
O.18	Prairie View A&M	14-51
N.1	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	18-38
N.8	Grambling State	40-47
N.15	@SOUTHERN	7-17

Coach: Rick Comegy
Nickname: Delta Devils · **2013 Record:** 2-9

MISSOURI STATE
Springfield, MO

A.28	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	17-23
S.6	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
S.13	North Dakota	
S.20	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	13-17
O.4	Youngstown State	
O.11	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	35-21
O.18	South Dakota	14-17
O.25	@ILLINOIS STATE	37-10
N.1	@INDIANA STATE	49-7
N.8	Southern Illinois	37-27
N.15	North Dakota State	26-41
N.22	@NORTHERN IOWA	10-17

Coach: Terry Allen
Nickname: Bears · **2013 Record:** 5-7

MONMOUTH
West Long Branch, NJ

A.30	Delaware State	
S.13	Wagner	23-6
S.20	@DUQUESNE	23-33
S.27	@LEHIGH	25-28
O.4	@ROBERT MORRIS	35-9
O.11	Columbia	37-14
O.25	@PRESBYTERIAN	
N.1	Charleston Southern	
N.8	@LIBERTY	15-45
N.15	@COASTAL CAROLINA	
N.22	Gardner-Webb	

Coach: Kevin Callahan
Nickname: Hawks · **2013 Record:** 6-6

MONTANA
Missoula, MT

A.30	@WYOMING	
S.6	Central Washington	
S.13	South Dakota	31-27
S.20	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	
S.27	Northern Colorado	
O.4	@NORTH DAKOTA	55-17
O.18	UC Davis	42-7
O.25	@CAL POLY	21-14
N.1	Sacramento State	51-48
N.8	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	37-42
N.15	@SOUTHERN UTAH	
N.22	Montana State	28-14

Coach: Mick Delaney
Nickname: Grizzlies · **2013 Record:** 10-3

MONTANA STATE
Bozeman, MT

A.30	@ARKANSAS STATE	
S.6	Black Hills State	
S.13	Central Arkansas	
S.20	Eastern Washington	29-54
S.27	North Dakota	63-20
O.4	@SACRAMENTO STATE	
O.11	@UC DAVIS	34-17
O.18	Weber State	34-16
N.1	@CAL POLY	
N.8	Portland State	
N.15	Idaho State	
N.22	@MONTANA	14-28

Coach: Rob Ash
Nickname: Bobcats · **2013 Record:** 7-5

MOREHEAD STATE
Morehead, KY

A.30	@RICHMOND	
S.6	Pikeville (Ky.)	10-13
S.13	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	24-56
S.20	@DAVIDSON	45-14
O.4	Campbell	45-36
O.11	Jacksonville	19-69
O.18	@DAYTON	14-42
O.25	Valparaiso	42-28
N.1	@BUTLER	27-58
N.8	@SAN DIEGO	3-56
N.15	Stetson	
N.22	@CHARLOTTE	17-61

Coach: Rob Tenyer
Nickname: Eagles · **2013 Record:** 3-9

MORGAN STATE
Baltimore

A.30	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	
S.6	@HOLY CROSS	
S.13	Bowie State	
S.20	Howard*	14-28
S.27	@NORFOLK STATE	21-27
O.4	@FLORIDA A&M	34-21
O.11	North Carolina Central	34-22
O.25	@VILLANOVA	
N.1	@HAMPTON	30-27
N.8	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	24-23
N.15	South Carolina State	3-38
N.22	Delaware State	31-26

*At East Rutherford, NJ
Coach: Lee Hull
Nickname: Bears · **2013 Record:** 5-7

MURRAY STATE
Murray, KY

S.6	@LOUISVILLE	
S.20	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	
S.27	Jacksonville State	35-34
O.4	@TENNESSEE TECH	35-24
O.11	Southeast Missouri State	34-37
O.18	@AUSTIN PEAY	31-3
N.1	Tennessee-Martin	17-45
N.8	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	17-37
N.15	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	34-27
N.22	Tennessee State	10-17

Coach: Chris Hatcher
Nickname: Racers · **2013 Record:** 6-6

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Durham, NH

A.30	@TOLEDO	
S.13	Lehigh	27-34
S.20	@RICHMOND	
S.27	Dartmouth	
O.4	@ELON	
O.11	William & Mary	0-17
O.25	Stony Brook	31-13
N.1	Albany	37-20
N.8	@RHODE ISLAND	59-19
N.15	Delaware	
N.22	@MAINE	24-3

Coach: Sean McDonnell
Nickname: Wildcats · **2013 Record:** 10-5

NICHOLLS STATE
Thibodaux, LA

A.30	@AIR FORCE	
S.6	@ARKANSAS	
S.13	Henderson State	
S.20	@NORTH TEXAS	
S.27	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	10-17
O.4	@MCNEESE STATE	30-55
O.11	Stephen F. Austin	41-55
O.18	Lamar	34-56
O.25	@HOUSTON BAPTIST	
N.1	Incarnate Word	
N.15	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	33-21
N.20	Southeastern Louisiana	27-52

Coach: Charlie Stubbs
Nickname: Colonels · **2013 Record:** 4-8

NORFOLK STATE
Norfolk, VA

A.30	@MAINE	6-23
S.6	Liberty	
S.13	@WILLIAM & MARY	
S.20	@BUFFALO	
S.27	Morgan State	27-21
O.4	@SAVANNAH STATE	26-24
O.11	Delaware State	7-14
O.18	@HAMPTON	17-27
N.1	@FLORIDA A&M	6-16
N.8	Bethune-Cookman	27-24
N.15	North Carolina Central	13-17
N.22	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	3-17

Coach: Pete Adrian
Nickname: Spartans · **2013 Record:** 3-9

NORTH CAROLINA A&T
Greensboro, NC

A.31	Alabama A&M*	
S.6	Coastal Carolina	
S.13	@ELON	23-10
S.20	Chowan	
S.27	@HOWARD	27-19
O.4	South Carolina State**	24-29
O.11	Hampton	26-31
O.18	@DELAWARE STATE	7-12
O.25	Florida A&M	
N.8	Morgan State	23-24
N.15	@SAVANNAH STATE	41-14
N.22	@NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL	28-0

*At Orlando, FL **At Atlanta
Coach: Rod Broadway
Nickname: Aggies · **2013 Record:** 7-4

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL
Durham, NC

A.30	@EAST CAROLINA	
S.6	Elizabeth City State	
S.13	Charlotte	40-13
S.20	@TOWSON	17-35
O.4	Howard	37-28
O.11	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	3-44
O.18	@MORGAN STATE	22-34
O.25	Savannah State	24-10
N.1	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	14-38
N.8	Hampton	21-29
N.15	@NORFOLK STATE	24-13
N.22	North Carolina A&T	0-28

Coach: Jerry Mack
Nickname: Eagles · **2013 Record:** 5-7

NORTH DAKOTA
Grand Forks, ND

A.30	@SAN JOSE STATE	
S.6	Robert Morris	
S.13	@MISSOURI STATE	
S.20	Stony Brook	
S.27	@MONTANA STATE	20-63
O.4	Montana	17-55
O.11	Portland State	10-14
O.25	@SOUTHERN UTAH	
N.1	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	14-35
N.8	Weber State	
N.15	Northern Arizona	27-48
N.22	@NORTHERN COLORADO	24-21

Coach: Bubba Schweigert
2013 Record: 3-8

NORTH DAKOTA STATE
Fargo, ND

A.30	@IOWA STATE	
S.6	@WEBER STATE	
S.13	Incarnate Word	
S.20	Montana	
O.4	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	
O.11	Southern Illinois	31-10
O.18	Indiana State	56-10
O.25	@SOUTH DAKOTA	42-0
N.1	South Dakota State	20-0
N.8	@NORTHERN IOWA	24-23
N.15	@MISSOURI STATE	41-26
N.22	Youngstown State	35-17

Coach: Chris Klieman
Nickname: Bison · **2013 Record:** 15-0

NORTHERN ARIZONA
Flagstaff, AZ

A.30	@SAN DIEGO STATE	
S.13	New Mexico Highlands	
S.20	@SOUTH DAKOTA	22-16
S.27	Cal Poly	17-13
O.4	@NORTHERN COLORADO	24-7
O.18	@PORTLAND STATE	
O.25	Eastern Washington	
N.1	@WEBER STATE	
N.8	UC Davis	21-10
N.15	@NORTH DAKOTA	48-27
N.22	Southern Utah	20-10

Coach: Jerome Souers
Nickname: Lumberjacks · **2013 Record:** 9-3

NORTHERN COLORADO
Greeley, CO

S.6	@UNLV	
S.13	Houston Baptist	
S.20	@NORTHERN IOWA	7-26
S.27	@MONTANA	
O.4	Northern Arizona	7-24
O.11	Sacramento State	21-37
O.18	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	
O.25	Idaho State	26-40
N.1	@UC DAVIS	18-34
N.15	@WEBER STATE	
N.22	North Dakota	21-24

Coach: Earnest Collins Jr.
Nickname: Bears · **2013 Record:** 1-11

NORTHERN IOWA
Cedar Falls, IA

A.30	@IOWA	
S.6	Morgan State	
S.13	@HAWAII	
S.20	Northern Colorado	26-7
O.4	@INDIANA STATE	
O.11	@SOUTH DAKOTA	31-38
O.18	South Dakota State	34-37
O.25	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	28-13
N.1	Illinois State	3-13
N.8	North Dakota State	23-24
N.15	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	17-24
N.22	Missouri State	17-10

Coach: Mark Farley
Nickname: Panthers · **2013 Record:** 7-5

NORTHWESTERN STATE
Natchitoches, LA

A.28	Missouri State	23-17
S.6	@BAYLOR	
S.13	@SOUTHERN	55-14
S.20	@LOUISIANA TECH	
O.4	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	22-37
O.11	Incarnate Word	
O.18	Sam Houston State	10-44
O.25	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	31-28
N.1	McNeese State	17-43
N.8	@ABILENE CHRISTIAN	
N.15	Nicholls State	21-33
N.22	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	40-27

Coach: Jay Thomas
Nickname: Demons · **2013 Record:** 6-6

PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia

S.20	@JACKSONVILLE	
S.27	Villanova	6-35
O.4	@DARTMOUTH	37-31
O.11	@FORDHAM	
O.18	Columbia	21-7
O.25	@YALE	28-17
N.1	Brown	0-27
N.8	@PRINCETON	26-38
N.15	Harvard	30-38
N.22	@CORNELL	41-42

Coach: Al Bagnoli
Nickname: Quakers · **2013 Record:** 4-6

PORTLAND STATE
Portland, OR

A.30	@OREGON STATE	
S.6	Western Oregon	
S.13	@WASHINGTON STATE	
S.20	@CAL POLY	34-38
O.4	UC Davis	41-10
O.11	@NORTH DAKOTA	14-10
O.18	Northern Arizona	
O.25	@WEBER STATE	45-24
N.1	Idaho State	38-31
N.8	@MONTANA STATE	
N.15	@SACRAMENTO STATE	42-43
N.21	Eastern Washington	41-42

Coach: Nigel Burton
Nickname: Vikings · **2013 Record:** 6-6

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
Prairie View, TX

A.31	Texas Southern*	37-13
S.13	@MCNEESE STATE	
S.20	Southern	59-62
S.27	Grambling State**	31-3
O.4	@JACKSON STATE	38-51
O.11	Alabama State	42-48
O.18	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	51-14
O.25	Alcorn State	35-50
N.8	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	43-23
N.15	@ALABAMA A&M	28-26

*At Houston **At Dallas
Coach: Heishma Northern
Nickname: Panthers · **2013 Record:** 6-6

PRESBYTERIAN
Clinton, SC

A.28	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
S.6	Bluefield	
S.13	Furman	20-21
S.20	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
O.4	Western Carolina	
O.11	Coastal Carolina	13-46
O.18	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	16-27
O.25	Monmouth	
N.1	Liberty	14-35
N.8	@OLE MISS	
N.15	@GARDNER-WEBB	13-20

Coach: Harold Nichols
Nickname: Blue Hose · **2013 Record:** 3-8

PRINCETON
Princeton, NJ

S.20	@SAN DIEGO	
S.27	Davidson	
O.4	@COLUMBIA	53-7
O.11	@COLGATE	
O.18	Brown	39-17
O.25	Harvard	51-48
N.1	@CORNELL	53-20
N.8	Pennsylvania	38-26
N.15	@YALE	59-23
N.22	Dartmouth	24-28

Coach: Bob Surace
Nickname: Tigers · **2013 Record:** 8-2

RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, RI

S.6	@MARSHALL	
S.13	@FORDHAM	26-51
S.20	Albany	19-13
S.27	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	42-7
O.4	Brown	14-31
O.11	@VILLANOVA	0-45
O.18	@RICHMOND	12-10
O.25	Maine	0-41
N.1	@DELAWARE	13-35
N.8	New Hampshire	19-59
N.15	@STONY BROOK	0-24
N.22	Towson	

Coach: Jim Fleming
Nickname: Rams · **2013 Record:** 3-9

RICHMOND
Richmond, VA

A.30	Morehead State	
S.6	@VIRGINIA	
S.13	Hampton	
S.20	New Hampshire	
O.4	@LIBERTY	30-21
O.11	@ALBANY	27-10
O.18	Rhode Island	10-12
O.25	@ELON	
N.1	Villanova	
N.8	@MAINE	21-28
N.15	James Madison	31-38
N.22	@WILLIAM & MARY	31-20

Coach: Danny Rocco
Nickname: Spiders · **2013 Record:** 6-6

ROBERT MORRIS
Moon Township, PA

A.28	Eastern Kentucky	6-38
S.6	@NORTH DAKOTA	
S.13	@LAFAYETTE	
S.20	@DAYTON	14-21
O.4	Monmouth	9-35
O.11	@SACRED HEART	25-42
O.18	Central Connecticut State	54-21
O.25	@BRYANT	24-3
N.8	Wagner	17-13
N.15	St. Francis (PA)	3-23
N.22	@DUQUESNE	20-21

Coach: John Banaszak
Nickname: Colonials · **2013 Record:** 5-6

SACRAMENTO STATE
Sacramento, CA

A.30	@INCARNATE WORD	
S.6	@CALIFORNIA	
S.13	Weber State	31-3
S.20	Menlo	
S.27	@IDAHO STATE	
O.4	Montana State	
O.11	@Northern Colorado	37-21
O.18	Cal Poly	7-42
N.1	@MONTANA	48-51
N.8	Southern Utah	21-24
N.15	Portland State	43-42
N.22	@UC DAVIS	7-34

Coach: Marshall Sperbeck
Nickname: Hornets · **2013 Record:** 5-7

SACRED HEART
Fairfield, CT

A.30	Marist	37-21
S.6	Lafayette	26-24
S.13	Assumption	
S.20	Bucknell	16-0
O.4	@DELAWARE	
O.11	Robert Morris	42-25
O.18	@DUQUESNE	10-0
O.25	St. Francis (PA)	10-24
N.1	@WAGNER	20-23
N.8	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	59-36
N.15	Bryant	56-28

Coach: Mark Nofri
Nickname: Pioneers · **2013 Record:** 10-3

SAM HOUSTON STATE
Huntsville, TX

A.23	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	49-34
A.30	Alabama State	
S.6	@LSU	
S.13	Colorado St.-Pueblo	
S.27	@LAMAR	14-3
O.11	McNeese State	23-31
O.18	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	44-10
O.25	Abilene Christian	
N.1	Stephen F. Austin*	56-49
N.8	@INCARNATE WORD	52-21
N.15	@HOUSTON BAPTIST	74-0
N.22	Central Arkansas	31-49

*At Houston
Coach: K.C. Keeler
Nickname: Bearkats · **2013 Record:** 9-5

SAMFORD
Birmingham, AL

A.30	@TCU	
S.11	Stillman	
S.20	VMI	
S.27	@CHATTANOOGA	17-14
O.4	Mercer	
O.18	Wofford	34-27
O.25	@FURMAN	17-35
N.1	Concordia (AL)	
N.8	Western Carolina	62-23
N.15	@CITADEL	26-28
N.22	@AUBURN	

Coach: Pat Sullivan
Nickname: Bulldogs · **2013 Record:** 8-5

SAN DIEGO
San Diego

S.6	Western New Mexico	38-35
S.13	@JACKSONVILLE	
S.20	Princeton	
S.27	@MARIST	35-33
O.11	Stetson	59-0
O.18	@BUTLER	42-14
O.25	Dayton	38-45
N.1	@DRAKE	23-13
N.8	Morehead State	56-3
N.15	Valparaiso	58-14
N.22	Cal Poly	16-38

Coach: Dale Lindsey
Nickname: Toreros · **2013 Record:** 8-3

SAVANNAH STATE
Savannah, GA

A.30	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	
S.6	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	9-77
S.13	Fort Valley State	27-20
S.27	@DELAWARE STATE	22-24
O.4	Norfolk State	24-26
O.11	@FLORIDA A&M	14-27
O.18	Bethune-Cookman	21-48
O.25	@NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL	10-24
N.1	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	9-45
N.8	Howard	14-42
N.15	North Carolina A&T	14-41
N.22	@BYU	

Coach: Earnest Wilson III
Nickname: Tigers · **2013 Record:** 1-11

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
Orangeburg, SC

A.30	Benedict*	59-6
S.6	@CLEMSON	13-52
S.13	@COASTAL CAROLINA	20-27
S.20	Furman	20-30
S.27	@HAMPTON	30-6
O.4	North Carolina A&T**	29-24
O.11	North Carolina Central	44-3
O.25	Bethune-Cookman	3-14
N.1	Savannah State	45-9
N.8	@FLORIDA A&M	25-21
N.15	@MORGAN STATE	38-3
N.22	Norfolk State	17-3

*At Columbia, SC **At Atlanta
Coach: Buddy Pough
Nickname: Bulldogs · **2013 Record:** 9-4

SOUTH DAKOTA
Vermillion, SD

A.30	@OREGON	
S.6	William Penn	
S.13	@MONTANA	27-31
S.20	Northern Arizona	16-22
O.4	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	
O.11	Northern Iowa	38-31
O.18	@MISSOURI STATE	17-14
O.25	North Dakota State	0-42
N.1	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	34-38
N.8	Western Illinois	10-24
N.15	Illinois State	14-28
N.22	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	12-27

Coach: Joe Glenn
Nickname: Coyotes · **2013 Record:** 4-8

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
Brookings, SD

A.30	@MISSOURI	
S.6	Cal Poly	
S.13	@SOUTHERN UTAH	
O.4	@ILLINOIS STATE	
O.11	Missouri State	21-35
O.18	@NORTHERN IOWA	37-34
O.25	Youngstown State	42-13
N.1	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	0-20
N.8	@INDIANA STATE	29-0
N.15	Western Illinois	38-14
N.22	South Dakota	27-12

Coach: John Stiegelmeier
Nickname: Jackrabbits · **2013 Record:** 9-5

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE
Cape Girardeau, MO

A.28	Missouri Baptist	
S.6	@KANSAS	
S.13	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	19-36
S.20	Southeastern Louisiana	7-45
S.27	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	7-17
O.4	Tennessee State	16-40
O.11	@MURRAY STATE	37-34
O.18	Eastern Illinois	33-55
O.25	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	7-31
N.8	@TENNESSEE TECH	16-41
N.15	Austin Peay	36-34
N.22	Jacksonville State	34-42

Coach: Tom Matukewicz
Nickname: Redhawks · **2013 Record:** 3-9

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
Hammond, LA

A.30	Jacksonville	
S.6	Southern Utah	
S.13	@TULANE	
S.20	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	45-7
S.27	@INCARNATE WORD	35-3
O.4	Northwestern State	37-22
O.11	@LAMAR	56-34
O.18	Central Arkansas	58-31
O.25	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	56-14
N.8	Houston Baptist	
N.15	McNeese State	41-7
N.20	@NICHOLLS STATE	52-27

Coach: Ron Roberts
Nickname: Lions · **2013 Record:** 11-3

SOUTHERN
Baton Rouge, LA

A.30	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	
S.13	Northwestern State	14-55
S.20	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	62-59
S.27	@ALCORN STATE	38-44
O.4	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	29-21
O.11	@ALABAMA A&M	20-17
O.18	Fort Valley State	
O.25	@JACKSON STATE	14-19
N.1	Alabama State	31-28
N.8	Texas Southern	31-24
N.15	Mississippi Valley State	17-7
N.29	Grambling State*	40-17

*At New Orleans
Coach: Dawson Odums
Nickname: Jaguars · **2013 Record:** 9-4

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
Carbondale, IL

S.6	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	37-40
S.13	Southeast Missouri State	36-19
S.20	@PURDUE	
S.27	Western Illinois	34-28
O.4	South Dakota	
O.10	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	10-31
O.18	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	27-28
O.25	Indiana State	31-9
N.8	@MISSOURI STATE	27-37
N.15	Northern Iowa	27-24
N.20	@ILLINOIS STATE	24-17

Coach: Dale Lennon
Nickname: Salukis · **2013 Record:** 7-5

SOUTHERN UTAH
Cedar City, UT

A.30	@NEVADA	
S.6	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	
S.13	South Dakota State	
S.20	@FRESNO STATE	
S.27	Weber State	27-21
O.4	@CAL POLY	
O.11	Eastern Washington	10-34
O.18	@IDAHO STATE	19-9
O.25	North Dakota	
N.8	@SACRAMENTO STATE	24-21
N.15	Montana	
N.22	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	10-20

Coach: Ed Lamb
Nickname: Thunderbirds · **2013 Record:** 8-5

ST. FRANCIS (PA)
Loretto, PA

A.30	@FORDHAM	20-38
S.6	Clarion	
S.13	@JAMES MADISON	20-24
S.20	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	
O.11	@WAGNER	7-10
O.18	Bryant	23-20
O.25	@SACRED HEART	24-10
N.1	Duquesne	10-21
N.15	@ROBERT MORRIS	23-3
N.22	Central Connecticut State	29-38

Coach: Chris Villarrial
Nickname: Red Flash · **2013 Record:** 5-6

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Nacogdoches, TX

A.30	@KANSAS STATE	
S.6	Incarnate Word	
S.13	Texas A&M-Commerce	
S.20	Weber State	40-50
O.4	Central Arkansas	31-66
O.11	@NICHOLLS STATE	55-41
O.18	@HOUSTON BAPTIST	
O.25	Southeastern Louisiana	14-56
N.1	Sam Houston State*	49-56
N.8	@MCNEESE STATE	38-69
N.15	Abilene Christian	
N.22	Northwestern State	27-40

*At Houston
Coach: Clint Conque
Nickname: Lumberjacks · **2013 Record:** 3-9

STETSON
DeLand, FL

A.30	@WARNER	31-3
S.6	Florida Tech	13-20
S.20	@BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN	34-49
O.4	Butler	15-35
O.11	@SAN DIEGO	0-59
O.18	Jacksonville	24-45
O.25	@DAVIDSON	26-13
N.1	@CAMPBELL	18-19
N.8	Marist	0-27
N.15	@MOREHEAD STATE	
N.22	Drake	

Coach: Roger Hughes
Nickname: Hatters · **2013 Record:** 2-9

STONY BROOK
Stony Brook, NY

A.28	Bryant	21-13
S.6	@CONNECTICUT	
S.13	American International	
S.20	@NORTH DAKOTA	
S.27	William & Mary	
O.4	@TOWSON	21-35
O.11	Maine	14-19
O.18	@ELON	
O.25	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	13-31
N.8	James Madison	41-38
N.15	Rhode Island	24-0
N.22	@ALBANY	24-3

Coach: Chuck Priore
Nickname: Seawolves · **2013 Record:** 5-6

TENNESSEE STATE
Nashville, TN

S.6	@ALABAMA STATE	
S.13	Jackson State*	26-16
S.20	Tennessee Tech	41-21
S.27	Florida A&M	27-7
O.4	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	40-16
O.11	Jacksonville State	31-15
O.18	Tennessee-Martin	29-15
O.25	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	10-51
N.1	Eastern Kentucky	0-44
N.8	@AUSTIN PEAY	31-6
N.22	@MURRAY STATE	17-10

*At Memphis, TN
Coach: Rod Reed
Nickname: Tigers · **2013 Record:** 10-4

TENNESSEE TECH
Cookeville, TN

S.6	@INDIANA STATE	38-37
S.20	@TENNESSEE STATE	21-41
S.27	@HOUSTON	
O.4	Murray State	24-35
O.11	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	17-28
O.18	Eastern Kentucky	10-24
O.25	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	14-34
N.1	Eastern Illinois	21-56
N.8	Southeast Missouri State	41-16
N.15	Chattanooga	
N.22	@AUSTIN PEAY	34-0

Coach: Watson Brown
Nickname: Golden Eagles · **2013 Record:** 5-7

TENNESSEE-MARTIN
Martin, TN

A.30	@KENTUCKY	
S.6	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	24-23
S.20	Eastern Kentucky	16-7
S.27	Southeast Missouri State	17-7
O.4	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	27-41
O.11	Tennessee Tech	28-17
O.18	@TENNESSEE STATE	15-29
O.25	Austin Peay	38-14
N.1	@MURRAY STATE	45-17
N.8	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
N.22	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	22-70

Coach: Jason Simpson
Nickname: Skyhawks · **2013 Record:** 7-5

TEXAS SOUTHERN
Houston

A.31	Prairie View A&M*	13-37
S.4	Texas College	
S.13	@CENTRAL STATE	
S.20	Alabama A&M	10-12
S.27	@ALABAMA STATE	2-34
O.4	Mississippi Valley State	17-20
O.18	@ALCORN STATE	13-20
O.25	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	41-28
N.1	Grambling State	23-17
N.8	@SOUTHERN	24-31
N.15	Jackson State	7-35

*At Houston
Coach: Darrell Asberry
Nickname: Tigers · **2013 Record:** 2-9

TOWSON
Towson, MD

A.30	Central Connecticut State	
S.6	@WEST VIRGINIA	
S.13	@DELAWARE STATE	49-7
S.20	North Carolina Central	35-17
S.27	Maine	
O.4	Stony Brook	35-21
O.11	@JAMES MADISON	28-17
O.18	@DELAWARE	31-32
N.1	Elon	
N.8	@VILLANOVA	35-45
N.15	William & Mary	15-9
N.22	@RHODE ISLAND	

Coach: Rob Ambrose
Nickname: Tigers · **2013 Record:** 13-2

UC DAVIS
Davis, CA

A.30	@STANFORD	
S.6	Fort Lewis	
S.13	@COLORADO STATE	
S.27	Eastern Washington	
O.4	@PORTLAND STATE	10-41
O.11	Montana State	17-34
O.18	@MONTANA	7-42
N.1	Northern Colorado	34-18
N.8	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	10-21
N.15	@CAL POLY	16-34
N.22	Sacramento State	34-7

Coach: Ron Gould
Nickname: Aggies · **2013 Record:** 5-7

VALPARAISO
Valparaiso, IN

A.28	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	
S.6	Saint Joseph's (Ind.)	31-34
S.20	@WILLIAM JEWELL	34-36
S.27	@CAMPBELL	49-42
O.4	Marist	0-37
O.11	Missouri Baptist	
O.18	Drake	10-23
O.25	@MOREHEAD STATE	28-42
N.1	@DAYTON	20-45
N.8	Butler	12-72
N.15	@SAN DIEGO	14-58
N.22	Davidson	

Coach: Dave Cecchini
Nickname: Crusaders · **2013 Record:** 1-10

VILLANOVA
Villanova, PA

A.29	@SYRACUSE	
S.6	Fordham	24-27
S.20	James Madison	21-31
S.27	@PENNSYLVANIA	35-6
O.4	@MAINE	35-37
O.11	Rhode Island	45-0
O.18	@WILLIAM & MARY	20-16
N.1	@RICHMOND	
N.8	Towson	45-35
N.15	Albany	
N.22	@DELAWARE	35-34

Coach: Andy Talley
Nickname: Wildcats · **2013 Record:** 6-5

VMI
Lexington, VA

A.30	@BUCKNELL	23-35
S.6	@BOWLING GREEN	
S.13	Davidson	
S.20	@SAMFORD	
S.27	Mercer	
O.4	@CHATTANOOGA	
O.11	@NAVY	
O.18	Gardner-Webb	27-9
O.25	@WOFFORD	
N.1	Furman	
N.15	@WESTERN CAROLINA	
N.22	Citadel	10-31

Coach: Sparky Woods
Nickname: Keydets · **2013 Record:** 2-10

WAGNER
Staten Island, NY

A.31	@GEORGETOWN	28-21
S.6	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	
S.13	@MONMOUTH	6-23
S.27	@LAFAYETTE	
O.4	Alderson Broaddus	
O.11	St. Francis (PA)	10-7
O.25	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	17-52
N.1	Sacred Heart	23-20
N.8	@ROBERT MORRIS	13-17
N.15	Duquesne	7-34
N.22	@BRYANT	28-47

Coach: Walt Hameline
Nickname: Seahawks · **2013 Record:** 3-8

WEBER STATE
Ogden, UT

A.28	@ARIZONA STATE	
S.13	@SACRAMENTO STATE	3-31
S.20	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	50-40
S.27	@SOUTHERN UTAH	21-27
O.11	Cal Poly	0-47
O.18	@MONTANA STATE	16-34
O.25	Portland State	24-45
N.1	Northern Arizona	
N.8	@NORTH DAKOTA	
N.15	Northern Colorado	
N.22	@IDAHO STATE	32-7

Coach: Jay Hill
Nickname: Wildcats · **2013 Record:** 2-10

WESTERN CAROLINA
Cullowhee, NC

A.30	@SOUTH FLORIDA	
S.6	Brevard	
S.13	Catawba	
S.27	@FURMAN	20-32
O.4	@PRESBYTERIAN	
O.11	Wofford	17-21
O.18	@MERCER	
O.25	Citadel	21-28
N.1	Chattanooga	21-42
N.8	@SAMFORD	23-62
N.15	VMI	
N.22	@ALABAMA	

Coach: Mark Speir
Nickname: Catamounts · **2013 Record:** 2-10

WESTERN ILLINOIS
Macomb, IL

A.28	Valparaiso	
S.6	@WISCONSIN	
S.13	Drake	
S.20	@NORTHWESTERN	
S.27	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	28-34
O.4	North Dakota State	
O.11	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	14-24
O.18	Illinois State	21-35
O.25	Northern Iowa	13-28
N.8	@SOUTH DAKOTA	24-10
N.15	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	14-38
N.22	Indiana State	21-14

Coach: Bob Nielson
Nickname: Leathernecks · **2013 Record:** 4-8

WILLIAM & MARY
Williamsburg, VA

A.30	@VIRGINIA TECH	
S.6	@HAMPTON	31-7
S.13	Norfolk State	
S.20	Lafayette	34-6
S.27	@STONY BROOK	
O.11	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	17-0
O.18	Villanova	16-20
O.25	Delaware	24-10
N.1	@JAMES MADISON	17-7
N.8	Elon	
N.15	@TOWSON	9-15
N.22	Richmond	20-31

Coach: Jimmye Laycock
Nickname: Tribe · **2013 Record:** 7-5

WOFFORD
Spartanburg, SC

A.30	@GEORGIA TECH	
S.13	North Greenville	
S.20	@GARDNER-WEBB	0-3
O.4	Citadel	21-10
O.11	@WESTERN CAROLINA	21-17
O.18	@SAMFORD	27-34
O.25	VMI	
N.8	@CHATTANOOGA	10-20
N.15	@FURMAN	14-27
N.22	Mercer	

Coach: Mike Ayers
Nickname: Terriers · **2013 Record:** 5-6

YALE
New Haven, CT

S.20	Lehigh	
S.27	Army	
O.4	@CORNELL	38-23
O.11	Dartmouth	13-20
O.18	Colgate	39-22
O.25	Pennsylvania	17-28
N.1	@COLUMBIA	53-12
N.8	@BROWN	24-17
N.15	Princeton	23-59
N.22	@HARVARD	7-34

Coach: Tony Reno
Nickname: Bulldogs · **2013 Record:** 5-5

YOUNGSTOWN STATE
Youngstown, OH

A.30	@ILLINOIS	
S.6	Duquesne	59-17
S.13	Butler	
S.20	St. Francis (Pa.)	
O.4	@MISSOURI STATE	
O.11	Western Illinois	24-14
O.18	Southern Illinois	28-27
O.25	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	13-42
N.1	South Dakota	38-34
N.8	@ILLINOIS STATE	59-21
N.15	Indiana State	35-24
N.22	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	17-35

Coach: Eric Wolford
Nickname: Penguins · **2013 Record:** 8-4

New Destinations Coaches

FCS

SCHOOL	FORMER COACH	NEW COACH
Alabama A&M	Anthony Jones	James Spady
Albany	Robert Ford	Greg Gattuso
Central Arkansas	Clint Conque	Steve Campbell
Central Connecticut State	Jeff McInerney	Pete Rossomando
Citadel	Kevin Higgins	Mike Houston
Colgate	Dick Biddle	Dan Hunt
Drake	Chris Creighton	Rick Fox
Eastern Illinois	Dino Babers	Kim Dameron
Elon	Jason Swepson	Rich Skrosky
Georgetown	Kevin Kelly	Rob Sgarlata
Grambling State	Doug Williams	Broderick Fobbs
Hampton	Donovan Rose	Connell Maynor
Jackson State	Rick Comegy	Harold Jackson
James Madison	Mickey Matthews	Everitt Withers
Mississippi Valley State	Karl Morgan	Rick Comegy
Morgan State	Donald Hill-Eley	Lee Hull
North Carolina Central	Henry Frazier III	Jerry Mack
North Dakota	Chris Mussman	Bubba Schweigert
North Dakota State	Craig Bohl	Chris Klieman
Robert Morris	Joe Walton	John Banaszak
Rhode Island	Joe Trainer	Jim Fleming
Sam Houston State	Willie Fritz	K.C. Keeler
Southeast Missouri State	Tony Samuel	Tom Matukewicz
Stephen F. Austin	J.C. Harper	Clint Conque
Valparaiso	Dale Carlson	Dave Cecchini
Weber State	Jody Sears	Jay Hill

Steve Sarkisian, USC

FBS

SCHOOL	FORMER COACH	NEW COACH
Arkansas State	Bryan Harsin	Blake Anderson
Army	Rich Ellerson	Jeff Monken
Boise State	Chris Petersen	Bryan Harsin
Bowling Green	Dave Clawson	Dino Babers
Connecticut	Paul Pasqualoni	Bob Diaco
Eastern Michigan	Ron English	Chris Creighton
Florida Atlantic	Carl Pelini	Charlie Partridge
Georgia Southern	Jeff Monken	Willie Fritz
Louisville	Charlie Strong	Bobby Petrino
Massachusetts	Charley Molnar	Mark Whipple
Miami (OH)	Don Treadwell	Chuck Martin
Penn State	Bill O'Brien	James Franklin
Texas	Mack Brown	Charlie Strong
UAB	Garrick McGee	Bill Clark
USC	Lane Kiffin	Steve Sarkisian
Vanderbilt	James Franklin	Derek Mason
Wake Forest	Jim Grobe	Dave Clawson
Washington	Steve Sarkisian	Chris Petersen
Western Kentucky	Bobby Petrino	Jeff Brohm
Wyoming	Dave Christensen	Craig Bohl

New Destinations Players

Eligible in 2014

PLAYER	FORMER TEAM	NEW TEAM
Anthony Alford	Southern Miss	Ole Miss
Promise Amadi	Hawaii	Boise State
Boye Aromire	Virginia Tech	Temple
Dontea Ayres	Rutgers	Towson
Houston Bates*	Illinois	Louisiana Tech
Jordan Batiste	Tulane	Southeastern Louisiana
Stacey Bedell	Massachusetts	Stony Brook
Brock Berglund	North Texas	Northern Colorado
Shawn Blaylock	Kentucky	Georgia State
Jeryl Brazil	LSU	East Mississippi CC
Connor Brewer	Texas	Arizona
Michael Brewer*	Texas Tech	Virginia Tech
Chris Briggs	Southern Miss	Southeastern Louisiana
Jacoby Brissett	Florida	N.C. State
Austin Brown	UAB	Charleston Southern
Fadol Brown	Florida International	Ole Miss
Joseph Brunson	Louisiana	Louisiana Tech
Ray Buchanan	Arkansas	Northern Iowa
Deionte Buckley	Cincinnati	Indiana State
Malcolm Bunche*	Miami	UCLA
Jeremy Castro	UCLA	Hawaii
Ford Childress	West Virginia	Trinity Valley CC
Garrett Clark	Southern Miss	Southern Illinois
Brian Clay	Hawaii	Washington
Jacob Coker*	Florida State	Alabama
Vince Colaianni	West Virginia	Kent State
Daryl Collins	Kentucky	West Alabama
Brandon Connette*	Duke	
Zach Conque	Texas-San Antonio	Stephen F. Austin
Michael Cooper	Arizona	Indiana
Dominic Coulter	Nevada	Sacramento State
Patrick Coyne	Cincinnati	Indiana State
Philip Crochen	Alabama	Troy
Malcolm Crockett	Pittsburgh	Southern
Nick Cuthbert	Georgia Tech	Kent State
Nicholas Dance	Western Michigan	Tennessee-Martin
Hayden Daniels	Illinois	Houston
Chris Davis*	Pittsburgh	Kentucky
Demitrious Davis*	Pittsburgh	Kentucky
Trevor Davis	Hawaii	California

PLAYER	FORMER TEAM	NEW TEAM
Burton De Koning	Nevada	Cal Poly
Blake Dees	Texas Tech	South Alabama
Luke Del Rio	Alabama	Oregon State
Kinderick Dent	South Alabama	Troy
Gehrig Dieter	SMU	Bowling Green
Bruce Dukes	UCF	Georgia State
Nick England	Florida International	Old Dominion
Michael Eubank	Arizona State	Samford
Micah Eugene	LSU	Southeastern Louisiana
Quay Evans	Mississippi State	West Georgia
Austen Fales	San Jose State	LaVerne
Jason Fanaika	Utah State	Utah
LaMichael Fanning	Alabama	Jacksonville State
Justin Ferguson	Notre Dame	Western Michigan
L.T. Filiaga*	Utah	Utah State
Shaquille Fluker	Georgia	Jacksonville State
Tim Foley	New Mexico	Eastern New Mexico
Joel Foy	Air Force	USC
King Frazier	Nebraska	North Dakota State
Mitch Frentescu	Colorado State	Fresno State
Blake Frohnapfel*	Marshall	Massachusetts
Josh Furman*	Michigan	Oklahoma State
Trey Granier	LSU	Louisiana
Elijah Grant	Temple	Wagner
Daniel Gray*	Tennessee	Utah State
Worth Gregory	Alabama	East Carolina
Jalen Grimble	Miami	Oregon State
Bryan Harper	Arizona	Fresno State
Carl Harris	Memphis	Lamar
Paul Harris	Tennessee	Iowa Western CC
Nick Harwell	Miami (OH)	Kansas
Braylon Heard*	Nebraska	Kentucky
Matthew Heard	New Mexico State	UTEP
Bruce Heggie*	Notre Dame	Ball State
Andrew Hendrix*	Notre Dame	Miami (OH)
Lee Hightower	Boise State	Houston
A.J. Hilliard	TCU	Texas A&M
Vincent Hobbs	Colorado	Louisiana-Monroe
Keahi Hogan	Arizona	Hawaii
Nate Holmes	Arkansas	McNeese State

Phillip Ely, Toledo

PLAYER	FORMER TEAM	NEW TEAM
K'Hadree Hooker	N.C. State	East Carolina
Greyson Hughes	Kansas State	Houston
Shane Huhn	UTEP	Texas A&M
Maudrecus Humphrey	Arkansas	UAB
Ethan Hutson	Ole Miss	Troy
Mark Iannotti	Eastern Michigan	Southern Illinois
Brandon Ifill*	Pittsburgh	
Shane Johnson*	Pittsburgh	
Cayleb Jones	Texas	Arizona
Alvin Kamara	Alabama	Hutchinson CC
Alex Kenney*	Penn State	Massachusetts
Bryson Keeton	Nevada	Montana State
Gunner Kiel	Notre Dame	Cincinnati
John Kinder*	Syracuse	Stony Brook
Richard Lagow	Connecticut	Oklahoma State
D'Shale Landor	Louisiana	Southeastern Louisiana

*Graduate Transfer

SARKISIAN: ELAINE THOMPSON / AP; ELY: APRIL L. BROWN / AP

New Destinations Players

Jacob Coker, Alabama

PLAYER	FORMER TEAM	NEW TEAM
Jared Leaf	Hawaii	San Jose State
Vad Lee	Georgia Tech	James Madison
Christian LeMay	Georgia	Jacksonville State
Jordan Leslie*	UTEP	BYU
Alex Lewis	Colorado	Nebraska
James Lincoln	Memphis	Florida Atlantic
Chad Lindsay*	Alabama	Ohio State
Jaylen Lowe	Tulsa	NE Oklahoma A&M
Mack Lowrie	Boston College	Rhode Island
Wes Lunt	Oklahoma State	Illinois
Anthony Maddie	Western Michigan	Northern Illinois
Josh Magee	Alabama	South Alabama
Josh Manley	Syracuse	Charlotte
Eric Mathews*	Memphis	
Weston Mathis	Utah State	New Mexico
Logan Mayes	Washington State	Cal Poly
Larry McDuffey	Houston	Abilene Christian
Mekale McKay	Arkansas	Cincinnati
David Mellstrom	Virginia Tech	USC
Vincente Miles	Arizona	San Jose State
Derrick Milton	Mississippi State	McNeese State
Dyshawn Mobley	Kentucky	Eastern Kentucky
D'Vario Montgomery	South Florida	Iowa State
William Moore	Houston	Abilene Christian
Tyron Morris-Edwards	Utah	Weber State
Blake Muir	Hawaii	Baylor
Tyler Murphy*	Florida	Boston College
Najee Murray	Ohio State	Kent State
DaVonte' Neal	Notre Dame	Arizona
Langston Newton	Kentucky	Purdue
Alex Niznak*	Central Michigan	
Cameron Oliver	Louisiana-Monroe	Houston
Ammon Olsen	BYU	Southern Utah
Tyriq Patrick	Memphis	Tennessee-Martin
Gionni Paul	Miami	Utah
Quinton Pedroza	Utah	Hawaii
Josh Pegrem	Texas Tech	Houston
Lorenzo Phillips	LSU	East Mississippi CC
Justus Pickett	Maryland	Tennessee
Se'von Pittman	Ohio State	Akron
Davis Plowman	Texas A&M	East Carolina
Jordan Pu'u-Robinson	Washington State	Hawaii
Kory Rasmussen	Colorado	Hawaii
Austin Ray	Colorado	Missouri
Derrick Raymond	LSU	Southeastern Louisiana
Aaron Reed	Southern Miss	Southeastern Louisiana
Cody Riggs*	Florida	Notre Dame
Stephen Rivers*	LSU	
Chase Robison	Texas Tech	Auburn

PLAYER	FORMER TEAM	NEW TEAM
Fritz Rock	Illinois	Wagner
Charlie Rogers	Iowa State	Iowa Western CC
Jerqwinick Sandolph	LSU	Southeastern Louisiana
E.J. Scott*	Virginia	Wake Forest
Sharrieff Shah Jr.	Utah State	Utah
Rushel Shell	Pittsburgh	West Virgina
Marvin Shinn	Alabama	South Alabama
Dominic Sicilian	Miami (OH)	Miami
Ian Silberman*	Florida	Boston College
Delvon Simmons	Texas Tech	USC
Austin Slade-Matautia	Oregon State	Hawaii
Max Staver	Florida	East Mississippi CC
Xavier Stephens	Nevada	Northern Arizona
Manny Stocker	N.C. State	Tennessee-Martin
T.J. Talashek	UTEP	Texas-San Antonio
Evan Tatford	Tulane	Louisiana
Myke Tavarres	Arkansas	Incarnate Word
Jeff Thomas	Colorado	Lamar
Pete Thomas*	N.C. State	Tennessee-Martin
Tony Thomas	Eastern Michigan	Indiana
Kendal Thompson*	Oklahoma	Utah
Dillon Tighe	Massachusetts	Towson
Tucker Tuberville	Texas Tech	Auburn
Paul Turner	LSU	Louisiana Tech
Sam Ukwuachu	Boise State	Baylor
Favian Upshaw	Florida International	Georgia Southern
Anthony Wallace	Oregon	North Texas
Jordan Wallace	Indiana	Indiana State
Tyler White	Utah	Houston
Joshua Wilhite	Wake Forest	Blinn JC
Armstead Williams	Purdue	Duquesne
Jackie Williams	UAB	UCF
Peyton Williams	Colorado	Texas Tech
Quinteze Williams	Florida	Hutchinson CC
Cameron Wilson	Iowa	Ohio
Eric Wilson	Northwestern	Cincinnati
Max Wittek*	USC	
Lo Wood*	Notre Dame	Miami (OH)
Anthony Wooding	Air Force	Wake Forest

*Graduate Transfer

Eligible in 2015

PLAYER	FORMER TEAM	NEW TEAM
Rodney Adams	Toledo	South Florida
Justin Akins	Georgia Tech	
Austin Apodaca	Washington State	
Richard Ash	Michigan	Western Michigan
Jaleel Awini	Air Force	Colorado
Aaron Baltazar	Boise State	Washington State
Cody Barrow	Oklahoma	North Texas
Blake Bean	Buffalo	North Texas
Derek Beck	Massachusetts	
Kwamane Bowens	Hawaii	
Ahmad Christian	South Carolina	
Cameron Coffman	Indiana	
Brian Cramer	SMU	
Ray Crockett	Tulsa	
Eddie Custard	Alabama	UTEP
Jordan Dash	N.C. State	Temple
Willie Davis	South Florida	
Ben Dew	Hawaii	Houston
Dondre Dobbins	Texas-San Antonio	
Derek Edinburgh	LSU	Louisiana Tech
Phillip Ely	Alabama	Toledo
V.J. Fehoko	Utah	Texas Tech
Tyler Ferguson	Penn State	Louisville
Matt Floyd	South Florida	South Alabama
Ronald Geohaghan	Clemson	
James Hairston	LSU	
Kris Harley	Virginia Tech	
Melvinson Hartfield	Arkansas	
Kavahra Holmes	LSU	
Rodney Hubert	SMU	
Max Issaka	Rutgers	
Matt Joeckel	Texas A&M	TCU
Mitch Johnson	UCLA	Washington
Zach Kline	California	Oregon State
Dan Kottman	San Diego State	
Sebastian LaRue	Texas A&M	Washington State
Jeremiah Laufasa	Washington State	UTEP
Rhaheim Ledbetter	Florida	Southern Miss
Ruben Lile	Iowa	
Michael Loftus	SMU	
Walker Madden	Wyoming	
Deandre Martin	Wake Forest	
Ronnie Martin	South Carolina	
Baker Mayfield	Texas Tech	Oklahoma
Andrew McClelland	Miami	
Devin McKenna	Wyoming	
Craig McMahon	USC	
Drake Miller	Hawaii	
Mike Mitchell	Ohio State	
Christian Morris	UCLA	Ole Miss
Philip Nelson	Minnesota	Rutgers
Clayton Nicholas	Texas Tech	Bowling Green
Breyun Owens	Texas-San Antonio	
Al Page	Rutgers	
Nick Patti	Boise State	UCF
Bubba Poueu-Luna	Hawaii	
Baker Pritchard	BYU	Oregon State
Johnny Ragin III	California	Oregon
Sherman Ragland	Wake Forest	
Thomas Rawls	Michigan	Central Michigan
Chad Reese	Wyoming	North Texas
Sam Rice	SMU	North Texas
Tanner Rice	SMU	
Mike Richardson	Texas Tech	
Jordan Richmond	Texas A&M	North Texas
Kevin Robbins	Georgia Tech	
Anthony Rook	Wake Forest	
Sheldon Royster	Rutgers	
Nick St. Germain	South Carolina	
Guillermo Serrano	North Texas	UTEP
Traylon Shead	SMU	
Miles Shuler	Rutgers	
Conner Smith	Colorado State	
Joseph Smith	Utah	
Kwinton Smith	South Carolina	
Richard Smith	Arizona State	Boise State
Cody Sokol	Iowa	Louisiana Tech
Blaire Sullivan	UTEP	Texas State
Freddie Tagaloa	California	Arizona
Kent Taylor	Florida	Kansas
Jason Thompson	Wyoming	Utah
A.J. Turner	Arkansas	Arkansas State
Cleveland Wallace	Washington	San Jose State
Marquis Warford	Memphis	
James Washington	Syracuse	
Mike Wegzyn	Massachusetts	
Alex Welch	Notre Dame	Miami (OH)
Jalen Whitlow	Kentucky	
Jaime Wilson	Western Michigan	
Trevon Young	Florida	

—compiled by Will Long

COKER: KEITH SRAKOCIC / AP

SportingNews Bowl Projections

National Champion

Oklahoma

ROSE BOWL

Alabama

National Semifinal #1

Oklahoma

National Championship
AT&T Stadium | Arlington, Texas

Oregon

Florida State

Allstate SUGAR BOWL

SUGAR BOWL

Oregon

National Semifinal #2

NEW YEAR'S SIX

- **OUTBACK BOWL**
  Wisconsin vs. Georgia
- **CAPITAL ONE BOWL**
  Nebraska vs. LSU
- **CHICK-FIL-A PEACH BOWL**
  Michigan State vs. Auburn
- **ORANGE BOWL**
  UCF vs. Notre Dame
- **FIESTA BOWL**
  Stanford vs. Baylor
- **COTTON BOWL**
  UCLA vs. Ohio State

- **BAHAMAS BOWL**
  Tulsa vs. Ohio
- **CAMELLIA BOWL**
  Louisiana-Monroe vs. Buffalo
- **BOCA RATON BOWL**
  Toledo vs. Middle Tennessee
- **NEW MEXICO BOWL**
  Nevada vs. Texas-San Antonio
- **LAS VEGAS BOWL**
  Boise State vs. Washington State
- **FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL**
  Fresno State vs. Northern Illinois
- **NEW ORLEANS BOWL**
  Louisiana vs. Colorado State
- **ST. PETERSBURG BOWL**
  Houston vs. Western Kentucky
- **HAWAII BOWL**
  BYU vs. Rice
- **POINSETTIA BOWL**
  Utah State vs. Navy
- **MILITARY BOWL**
  Cincinnati vs. Boston College
- **TEXAS BOWL**
  Missouri vs. Kansas State
- **FIGHT HUNGER BOWL**
  Minnesota vs. Washington
- **PINSTRIPE BOWL**
  Iowa vs. Virginia Tech
- **BELK BOWL**
  Ole Miss vs. Clemson

- **RUSSELL ATHLETIC BOWL**
  Texas vs. North Carolina
- **BUFFALO WILD WINGS BOWL**
  West Virginia vs. Oregon State
- **ARMED FORCES BOWL**
  Tulane vs. Maryland
- **MUSIC CITY BOWL**
  Texas A&M vs. Louisville
- **ALAMO BOWL**
  Oklahoma State vs. Arizona State
- **HOLIDAY BOWL**
  Michigan vs. USC
- **INDEPENDENCE BOWL**
  Duke vs. Mississippi State
- **SUN BOWL**
  Arizona vs. Georgia Tech
- **LIBERTY BOWL**
  Florida vs. TCU
- **GATOR BOWL**
  South Carolina vs. Miami
- **HEART OF DALLAS BOWL**
  Northwestern vs. Texas Tech
- **BIRMINGHAM BOWL**
  Tennessee vs. East Carolina
- **GODADDY BOWL**
  Arkansas State vs. Bowling Green
- **MIAMI BEACH BOWL**
  SMU vs. Marshall
- **DETROIT BOWL**
  Indiana vs. Syracuse

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Chris Prince | FanDuel user since 2010

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This is Chris Prince. He's beermakersfan on FanDuel, and he has plenty of reasons to smile.

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- Huge variety of league sizes and prize pools
- Instant weekly cash payouts to league winners
- No season-long commitment - you only play when you want
- Thousands of one-week money leagues run every week of the season
- Play for real money - use your credit card or Paypal

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